



Home sweet home!

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Newsletter

## Changing lives from the inside out!

Nov / Dec 2019

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**Ministry Outreaches Available:**

In-Prison Ministry  
After Care  
Support Groups  
Pen Pal  
Mentoring  
Family Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Restoration House

Ministry training seminars available for local churches.

### A Thought from Nov. 7, 2002

When the leaves fall to the ground should we be sad? Should we think of death or should we look ahead to the new life which will

## Have a blessed Christmas and let Jesus lead you through the New Year.

In my 72 years as of Nov. 21st I have had some memorable Christmases. One is practically. When I was in elementary school my stepfather got hurt was not able to work to several weeks. The rent was paid and the important bills to keep us sheltered, but there was not extra money for presents and this was not the only time. We would not have a tree that year, but I ask my teacher what she was going to do with the tree in the classroom on our last day of school. Since it would be taken down and thrown away and the hand made decorations we made along with the tree, she said I would have it. So with the box of decoration in one hand and dragging the tree with the other home I went. By the time I got it home we had to put one side in the corner sing all of the

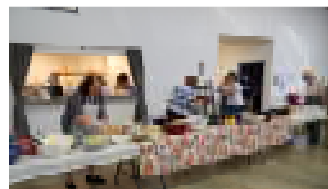
needles had fallen off from dragging it. I remember it is very cold and if I remember correctly we did not have heat for a while. Where my stepfather worked they gave a turkey and a large box of candy but since it was off until he healed up he did not get them at that time. I remember on Christmas we went to McDonalds and had \$.15 hamburgers for dinner, I can not remember why they were opened on Christmas but I remember what a treat it was to go to McDonalds for Christmas. I remember it being so cold we all slept in our clothes in one bed and waking up and eating what every we had for breakfast and thinking this is the best Christmas ever. My family was not close to God back to them but we all recognized this as a time when Jesus was

born. Since that time I have had many bountiful Christmases' with great meals and lots of presents, but that Christmas stand out in my mind because we felt close as a family and we did not need materials things to make us happy. I say all of this to say, this year on Christmas there will be hungry, homeless people who will have to go to a soup kitchen to get a hot meal, so try to be content that you have a home, a job, a family and church family if you have one, and not to go over board with material gifts within the family. Think of how blessed you are and try to do something for someone less fortunate than you and your family.

God bless you and may His Holy Spirit direct your steps each day of the life.

## Another Jubilee behind us

Here and on page three are pictures of the 32nd annual Day of Jubilee. It was a great success and it went well as the Lord was blessed and lifted up and praised for His



work in the jails and prisons, saving lost souls like He is doing outside the prison walls as well. As you see, there was plenty of great food and no one went home hungry. We will hold the next celebration



of the Jubilee September 26, 2020, so put it on your calendar when you get next year's calendar and come enjoy praising God for He is worthy to be praised!

### What are the churches doing about the inmates losing their religious rights?

On July 1st all inmate in the VA DOC were told they could not longer go to a church service and a weekly Bible study. This is DOC policy for all of VA. I remember many prison wanting more volunteers for Christian programs In fact the institutions use to have a day of appreciate for the volunteers and they would encourage us and tell us what a help we were and home many man hours volunteers serve in the VA prisons and how much money we save the. We were encouraged by many to keep up the good work, ever though many of the staff showed contempt for volunteers we were generally show courtesy. In some of the prisons there were volunteers come in every evening for some kind of Christian Bible study and at time one or two Churches services on a Sunday.

My question is why now are these men in such a need to change in their life refused the help Christian volunteers are so eager to give freely.

I am been going into the prisons almost 33 years. Some volunteers have been going in less and some more and many of them because in the change of policy lost their position to serve these inmates after so many years, so much sacrifice, and they were deeply hurt.

I began praying and asking anyone who I know to be a prayer warrior to please pry this would not happen when we got word it might be a new policy. We also prayed for the volunteers not to lose their position as volunteers. I lost a Sunday because of this change, which I will not go into details about. However if

I have keep my Sunday I would of lost 4 Wednesday Bible studies. The fellows who keep their Sunday lost the weekly Bible studies.

By a group giving up their Monday nights at Buckingham prison I actual gained their evening services to add to the 3 Mondays I was already having a Bible study. So you might say well what are you complaining about. We use to have 60 to 80 men at some of the Bible studies, but since the change and the men only being allowed to go to church or Bible study a majority of the men do not want to miss church. So those numbers have been reduces to 4 at one prison and 3 at the other.

Many men would love to grow in their understanding of God's word but had to choose

between that and a church service with singing and praises to God and an inmate choir which the men enjoy and many sing in.

My question is do Christians who do not have a friend or family incarcerated care?

### What are you doing for the new year?

If you want to do something great to make yourself feel good and help others sing up to be a pen pal to an inmate who does not have family writing them.

You know when I find out the crimes of many of the men which at time was against their own family I fully understand why their family do not have anything to do with them. I also find some have been in and out of prison and told their families over and over it would not happen again. But it does and wives are left to support their children and clean up the mess the inmate left behind. I know

if this man has made this promise over and over family is not likely to believe their will be a change. The I think of my relationship with Jesus and how many time I promised Him if he got me out of this mess, I would do better next time. However each time I would return to the old life. I am thankful even though I paid a price for my disobedience God never gave up on me. I guess that is why I will not give up one the men and women who do the same crimes over and over and have lost every friend they eve had. As I stick to the pen pal guidelines and share Jesus

I do not allow my self up to be taken advantaged of. If they do not want the gospel they will eventually stop writing, if they want things the ministry does not provide and I just remind them we do not do that, they will eventually stop writing.

Then there are some many who are sick and tired of living the old life and they are really seeking someone to share their walk with Jesus with. This make it all worth wild. I am not responsibility for their salvation. I am only obligated to share Jesus and the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. Come join me!

"A liberal's paradise would be a place where everybody has guaranteed employment, free comprehensive healthcare, free education, free food, free housing, free clothing, free utilities, and only law enforcement has guns. And believe it or not, such a place does indeed already exist: It's called Prison."

Sheriff Joe Arpaio

Pictures of 32nd Day of Jubilee below

# Article of the DOC governing body

It is not a strange thing the way the DOC is cutting programs, cutting back on decent food for the inmates, very limited medical care and other cuts. Our government is wasteful and they try to save money on the wrong things. Of course it does not help that the inmates waste as well and the officers and staff do as little as possible to get their pay like many government employees. If you are not one of these kinds of workers, do not get upset with the article, since all you have to do is look around at some of your fellow workers and you know what I am talking about.

The state receives federal money for each inmate the DOC has in the reentry programs. Many of the men forced into the program dis-

rupt the program for men who actually think it will help them when they get out. They are forced or they lose good time. The material for the program is expensive to put together so it is not updates in a timely manner and much of it is out dated in a short time and many address for inmate to contact after their release are not longer operating.

Men who have no place to parole to are held longer at times for not having an address be released to. One of my pet peeves is the fact that while the prisons are supposed to help these men and women to find a home plan, and they have people paid to do that; I have been ask by many men if I know of any place they could stay until they get on the feet, a halfway

house or shelter. I ask them what their counselor is doing to help them and they explain how little many counselors do for the inmates. Now I realize some men might be critical of the staff but when men I know and trust tell me the same thing, I know our tax dollars are paying salaries for many of these workers who are skating by doing a little to actually help inmates. Not all of course, there are many good hard working counselors working for the DOC.

Rehabilitating starts with a desire to change from the old way to better ways. Man left to his own does not desire to change nor is he able to make the necessary change. That is why having as many Christian programs presenting Jesus is a necessity. Pray for this!

## News from the Bible Reading Outreach ministry.

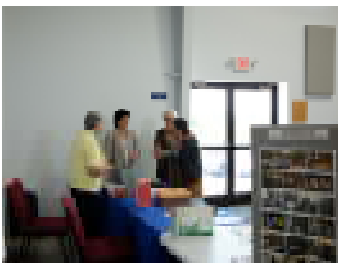
We are greatly inspired as we receive many letters requesting a bible and a bible study lesson where the requests have learned about the lessons from someone else taking the lessons and that person witnessing to them about the Lord. In other situations the requester will simply write they have seen a difference in a person taking the lessons and they want to have what that person has. Sometimes, and so very often, our witness to someone can simply be a calm spirit, a smiling face, a caring heart, being seen with our head bowed in thankfulness for a meal, listening when someone needs to talk, and so many, many simply things. We can see changes in many of those who have received bibles and

are taking the bible lessons as the notes and letters then sent will be filled with praise and thankfulness for God even in their current situations. We have had some who were refused parole, and yet their letter to us stated something like, "I am not upset, although obviously I wanted to be released. But God has a plan and will allow the release when it's His time." We have seen God working in many hearts and in answered prayers.

In January of this year we started sending out birthday cards to all active participants. The response of those who have received the cards has been overwhelming. You can read the joy and smile in the notes and letters we get in

gratitude for the birthday card and, for many, the card we send will be the only acknowledgement of their birthday. We are so thankful God gave us the thought to do this small task and so thankful that it makes those who receive the card feel as if someone cares. How wonderful that our Lord cares so much for each of us. May God have the Glory!

The active enrollment in the ministry has begun to reach an annual high of 520 active participants, while approximately 30 – 45 are moved to inactive status annually. We are thrilled to see that many of the inactive participants are returning over time and that reinforces "the Lord's Word will not return void!"



## NOV 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

## DEC 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, Wednesday evenings I ministry Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons. **Blue** is the day I preach at the Holiness Church in Schuyler.

### 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](mailto:rrbak@juno.com)

Phone: (434) 831-2593

Web site: [www.jailandprisonministries.org](http://www.jailandprisonministries.org)

## Inmate corner quizzes and answers and poems from inmates

### Answers to June/ July questions

11. A Nazarene (Matthew 2:23)
12. Isaiah (Matthew 3:3)
13. Camel Hair ( Matthew 3:4)
14. Leather ( Matthew 3:4)
15. Locusts and Honey ( Matthew 3:4)
16. The Jordan (Matthew 3:6)
17. Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 3:7)
18. Good Fruit (Matthew 3:10)
19. The Holy Spirit and Fire ( Matthew 3:11)
20. At the Baptism of Jesus and the transfiguration of Jesus (Matt 3:17, 17:5)
21. The Spirit of God Matthew 3:16)

### Bible Quiz Questions

- 1.) Jesus told His followers that to enter the kingdom of heaven their righteousness must surpass whose?
- 2.) What Aramaic curse word did Jesus tell His followers not to call their brothers?
- 3.) What two body parts did Jesus say it was better to cut off than for the whole body to go to hell?
- 4.) Which hand – right or left – did Jesus say it was better to do without?
- 5.) What was the one reason for divorce cited by Jesus?
- 6.) What four things should a person not swear by?
- 7.) Which cheek – right or left – did Jesus mention being

slapped before a person offers the other?

8.) What article of clothing did Jesus say to give to someone if they sue you for your shirt/tunic?

9.) What occupation did Jesus mention that loves those that love them?

10.) What did Jesus warn us not to practice before men?

#### Hard Knocks

The school of hard knocks, I have lived all my life, nothing comes easy, have to fight for all I got, through loneliness, pain, blood, tears, heartaches galore, and this is just some of all I have had to endure, the stress of my life has tore me apart, and left a great big hole

deep down in my heart, all that I have seen, all that I have down, has made my body so scarred and destroyed my mind, I don't know who to trust, I think everyone is a lie, because everyone I let inside has hurt and betrayed me, and the pain grows greater each time, so it makes me wonder if it is all my fault, am I that hard to befriend, that hard to love, or is it the road that I'm on, or the school that I chose that has made my life a living hell, I guess only the good Lord really knows.

This story is from one of my pen pals. If you have something to share we will try to get it into one of the future newsletters, we do not use names.