



The front of my home

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2020



It is wood cutting time again!

Changing lives from the inside out

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Tim Miller

Board

Secretary/

Treasurer:

Lisa Miller

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Rhonda Via

Steve Via

Ronald R. Baker

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Phoebe King

Mary Allen

Ministry Outreaches

Available:

In-Prison Ministry

After Care

Support Groups

Pen Pal

(Letter Writing)

Mentoring

Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

Bible courses

Ministry training seminars are available for local churches.

We are one year closer to the Lord's return!

It does not matter if you are pre-tribulation, mid tribulation, post tribulation, or if you do not even believe in the rapture, today is closer to the time of Jesus coming back, whether for the church or the second coming. I am not interested in which way you believe. What I am concerned about is; do you believe Jesus is coming back like the Scripture promises He is and are you ready? I feel sorry for people living their life like they are not concerned about Jesus' return, whether they do not believe in His return at all or they think, since it has been so long in His not coming, that they have lots of time before He returns. Some think there will be some kind of great sign right before His return, so they want to wait for that sign, and enjoy the world as long as possible.

The Jews had plenty of prophecies of Jesus' first appearance and after He began His ministry He provided

all of the evidence needed to believe He was the promised Messiah. However, they, being satisfied with the way their lives were other than being under Roman rule, still rejected Jesus. Jesus says in Matt 24:42-44 ⁴² "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³"But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. This certainly allows me to know I need to be ready, not waiting to get ready. As there were prophecies of His first appearance there are many that He will return. John 14:2-4 ²"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will

come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴"And where I go you know, and the way you know." John MacArthur states about these verses; "His departure would be for their advantage since He was going away to prepare a heavenly home for them and will return to take them so that they may be with Him. This is one of the passages that refers to the rapture of the saints at the end of the age when Christ comes in a cloud". My conclusion is; think and live like Jesus is coming today and you will be like the 5 wise virgins. They were ready. They did not have to get ready for the bridegroom. If you do not know how to get ready contact this ministry.

What is on your agenda for the year 2020?

Usually at the beginning of the new year people start making lists to do things better or making a list of resolutions for the year. At the beginning of each new year I try to see a way I can study better, and get a closer, more intimate walk with the Lord and be a better brother to my fellow Christians. I have many failings as a Christian. I do not smile as often as people think I should, even though I am greatly blessed and full of peace and joy. I do not always reflect it on my face. I cannot promise that will change but I want to grow closer to God and all my true brothers and sisters and be available for them in

the limited ways I am able. Think about last year. What was it you really wanted to do for the Lord that somehow you were not able to accomplish? Did you want to read your Bible more, or actually study it instead of just reading the Bible? Perhaps it was your prayer life that needed a tune up. How about your fellowship with other believers? Do you get to church after the service starts to avoid fellowshiping and do you sit by the door so you can make a quick get-a-way for the same reasons? Part of the reason for church is 1 John 1: 7 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one

another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." Christians have something in common. We can learn from each other, lift up each other, encourage each other, show brotherly love for each other, but we cannot do that if we avoid each other at every opportunity. If you have aught or someone has aught against you GET IT RIGHT! Do not let another day go by not speaking with a brother or sister in Christ.



Ron with his Creative Writing teacher at Staunton Correction Center.

Starting another year of serving the Lord in the prisons and jails.

First of all I want to thank God for any success this ministry has experienced in the past years and any success it will experience in the future. We give all the glory, honor, and praise to God. I am thankful for all of my present and past board members, for our overseer, and for the Southern District of the VA Mennonite Conference for keeping this ministry accountable. I thank the many individuals, churches, and businesses who have supported us financially to allow us to have our present budget. I am thankful for the many people praying for this ministry both in the prisons and in the community. So with all that said what will be our direction for the year 2020? We hope

to gain more support for the penal ministry in volunteers to write the 100s of male inmates who are seeking mentoring as they seek the Lord to change their lives. We are praying for more financial support for the Bible Reading Outreach Ministry since they mail in Bible lessons, Bibles, and other commentaries and dictionaries, and they spend a lot of money doing that important ministry with very little outside support. They never turn down a request for a Bible study or an actual need for a Bible. In 2018 they spent \$8402.09 on 526 Bibles and other Christian books from Christian Book Distributors and \$809.07 for 71 Christian books through Amazon. Mrs. Barbara Holmes uses

about 5-6 rolls of stamps a month (just for the return envelopes with the lessons coming from the inmates back to them. The ministry uses 400-500 of the \$0.71 cent stamps which it takes to mail out the lesson envelope.) They are a vital part of this ministry and have designated funds for them from our gifts since they are a part of this ministry now. However they need a steady stream of funds going straight to them which does not need to come through this ministry since their cost is ongoing and growing as more and more inmates find out about their very worthy ministry. Their mailing address is on the back page should the Lord move you to support them.

A thought I had on Jan.21, 2002

I awake in the morning and you greet me with the new day; it will be in so many ways like no other. One thing that remains unchanged is, you will be with me and walk with me and speak to me. If I allow, you will direct my every decision, my every word, and my every thought.

A look at Bible study since the change in DOC policy

When the policy changed in the prison where the men could only attend a church service on Sunday or a Bible study during the week, I felt I would lose my night of service. I ended up actually doubling the night going in for a Bible study. The number of men attending went from 60 or 75 to 6 at one prison and 4 at the other one at first. I

found the men who were attending the service were more interested in actually studying the Bible. I mean an in-depth, study of the Word of God. So when I thought things were going to be lost, things actually got better, in some ways. That reminded me that God has a plan for us and if we trust in His will He will do marvelous things in our life. I ap-

preciate my Bible study but I continue to pray the DOC will go back to allowing the men to attend all the Christian services that volunteers will bring into the prison. I used to attend a Christian service when I was incarcerated every night of the week and twice on Sunday. It's a shame we have allowed things to get to where it is today in the prisons.



Are you noticing the changes in the culture are developing quicker lately?

It seems I am more aware of the sin which is being pushed in society by some of the people who want to run our government. Society is really revealing the need for the soon return of the Lord. As we see the blatant sinfulness of people in charge and we see how the masses are applauding those pushing that agenda,

we know how sad God must be. Here is a statement about a law they want to pass in VA: "This is horrific," Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel tweeted. "Dem Gov. Ralph Northam, a pediatrician himself, is defending born-alive abortions: 'The infant would be delivered. The infant

would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired.'" This is just one of many points God's people need to be praying about. Rev. 20:20 "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Je-

What are you looking for in a church family?

I have found everyone does not agree with all of the understandings of Scripture. Can you imagine that? I have found it might take a while for people to get to know me well enough to continue fellowshiping with me, even as wonderful as I think I am. I have found some people are not as open as others and do not warm up to me like others do. I have learned through many years no matter what church I go to, I find this same thing until people get to know each other. I, for one, would not want everyone to be like me, so God shared a Word with me. When I go into a new church try to smile once in a

while. Speak to lots of people and let people know I care. If people do not ever come up to me and shake my hand then I go to them. I read Pro. 18:24 "A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend *who sticks* closer than a brother." My conclusion: if I want friends, I need to present myself friendly. However, when I read the commentary it inferred the person who makes friends too easily and indiscriminately does so to his own destruction. On the other hand, a friend chosen wisely is more loyal than a brother. I want to have lots of friends and treat them all the

same and be careful looking for the ones who stick closer than a brother.

I am amazed at the people who do not go to church. When I ask why they name various churches they went to and no one spoke to them. While that might not be a good excuse for them not to speak up, I do not want to be the cause of someone saying that. I have been to churches like that. I felt very alienated, unloved, and in the wrong place. Lets make sure no one ever leave our presence to whom we have not shown the Love of God, no matter what they look like or act like.



Youth from another state who helped work on the Restoration House a few years ago.

***A thought I had on
Jan. 25, 2002***

My God there are times I read Your heart and it brings me joy. I move as if you were making the movement, and I feel your approval. Then Father there are times I ignore your warnings and move in a way contrary to your will. Forgive me oh God, correct my ways and restore me to where I please you and grant the forgiveness I have through the blood of Jesus.

We still would love to have a couple board member join the ministry board

The ministry board only meets every other month here in Schuyler and it only takes a few hours for the meeting, and part of that is just good fellowship. So it will not take up a lot of someone's time. We would like two more board members to help us look to the future of this ministry and help us move ahead in many more years of

service to the Lord. I could actually use some help during certain days with ministry work since the pen pal ministry has grown so much. I am very thankful for the editors I have who allow the newsletter and other important documents to go out much more professional looking. It would be nice to be able to turn certain projects

over to someone knowing they would follow through with it and with me overseeing it. They could take some burden off of my busy day. Of course we are also looking for ministers with like minded theology to be willing to take over for our Chaplain going into the prisons to teach Bible studies and preach when it is necessary.

Write a letter and be a servant of the Lord.

In every newsletter I write the need for volunteers to write male inmates. I get few responses by e-mail or letter. When I speak to people at church or individually about the worthy outreach, I hear a couple of reasons pretty often. 1.) "I am really too busy to sit and write a letter," and "I do not know what to say." 2.) Various fears about inmates dropping by at the time of their release. I have taken

great lengths to provide a brochure with guidelines that should prevent any one from dropping by unexpectedly if they are followed carefully. As far as time, I have typed with two fingers 17 letters in a day. I would not want to do it every day and, of course, if I am writing that many people in one day I do not type my part of the letter over and over. Some inmates write a very short letter. Once I write

what I am doing, then respond to their part, these are easy letters to respond to. Others write a nice long letter and it is very easy to find something to say just responding to their letter. I have had some disappointments where I find a volunteer to write and the inmate did not reply, but if that happens I have 100s more to chose from.



This is one reason we need young strong help for the wood cutting.

JAN 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year	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	

FEB 2020

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

Red numbers is when I minister in Dillwyn Wednesday and Buckingham Mondays. I do not have a Sunday service now, unless they need a substitute.

The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local Holiness 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." They can be sent to the address below and will be used to further the Jail & Prison Ministry. Checks made out to "Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry " Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain
6166 Helens Way, Schuyler, VA 22969-9607

For gifts for "The Bible Reading Outreach Ministry" Checks made out to "The Bible Reading Outreach Ministries" address Barbara Holmes 3152 Glenn Husky Rd Sevierville, TN 37862

Questions and answers for Bible quiz

Inmate Corner

Answers to Nov/Dec questions

- 1.The Pharisees, and the teachers of the law (Matt. 5:20)
- 2.Raca (Matt. 5:22)
- 3.Eye and hand (Matt. 5:29-30)
- 4.Right hand (Matt. 5:30)
- 5.Sexual immorality (Matt. 5:32)
- 6.Heaven, earth, Jerusalem, your head (Matt. 5:34-36)
- 7.Left (Matt. 5:39)
- 8.Coat/Cloak (Matt. 5:40)
- 9.Tax collectors (Matt. 5:46)
- 10.Our acts of righteousness (Matt. 6:1)

Bible quiz questions

- 1.) When we give to the needy, we should not announce it with what musical instrument?
- 2.) According to Jesus, in what two public places do hypocrites like to pray?
- 3.) When teaching about prayer, Jesus told his followers not to babble like whom?
- 4.) When we pray, what food should we ask God to give us daily?
- 5.) What two make up tips did Jesus give for fasting?
- 6.) What insect did Jesus say destroys our treasures?
- 7.) What part of the body did Jesus say was the lamp of the body?

8.) Who are the two masters Jesus said we can't serve at the same time?

9.) What three things in nature did Jesus use as examples for not worrying?

10.) What two things did Jesus say we must seek first before anything else?

you cause, life will catch up and make you pay for it all, so the best thing to do is to obey God's law because everlasting life and great happiness will be the reward for it all

We share these poems and thoughts to ponder however it does not mean we agree with every thing shared. We want you to ready this as they are written from the inmates point of view.

If you have a poem or story you want to share feel free to send it, we do reserve the right to refuse it is we deem it inappropriate.

Life

Life is life, life is rain, life is pain, life is insane, life is refrained, life is what you make it, life is how you take it, life is to be made not played, if you play with life you are going to get hurt, life doesn't play so you better man up, no matter what pain or destruction