

# Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

## Newsletter

March/April  
2020

### Changing lives from the inside out!

#### March will begin year 33 for this ministry

I remember getting out of prison 33 years ago, My niece picked me up around 8:00 AM from Staunton Correctional Center after completing my sentence. After three turn-downs from the parole board, God decided to allow me the opportunity to see if I would keep the promised I had broken to Him so many times and stay out of trouble. There was a small restaurant right across from the prison and I heard they had a great milk shake, something I had not had for a very long time. We stopped and I could not make up my mind which flavor to get, so I got one of each. Then, as we got closer to home, we passed a store and I remembered another thing I had not had in a very long time and we stopped and got a quart of buttermilk. The we went by where my mother was buried, I was able to go to her funeral while incarcerated and I wanted to see about the headstone I helped pay for. Then we went home.

I had to visit my parole officer shortly after my release, so I did that and looked for a job. I did not want any problems with my parole officer. I had a lady at first, and she was great, and so was my second parole officer who ended up becoming a supervisor. Then I got my third parole officer who wanted to show me how tough he was. So he said, "I am going to need to see you once a week again." I tried to

explain that I had worked hard to only have to come in once a month, but he said he needed to see me every week. So after a short debate, to no end, that was decided. On the way home I thought if he wanted to know everything about me I will make sure he does. When I got in his office I starting telling him absolutely everything I had done from the time I left his office a week earlier until I walked in that day. We usually had about 15 minutes and then the next parolee came in, but I made sure I got at least 30 minutes each time. After all I wanted to make this worthwhile for both of us. He kept saying he need to see the next man, but I had just one more thing I felt he needed to know. After the second week he decided maybe seeing me just once a month would be fine.

During this time I started looking to get back into the prison as a volunteer. I felt God calling me to do prison ministry. Many people were not too supportive, thinking I was just another inmate who felt this way, and it would come to nothing after a short time. I was told I would have to be off of parole before I could get back into prison, but I started going into the local jails. That was easier and much quicker to start out. While I was incarcerated I learned about other well-established ministries, like

Prison Fellowship (PF), and I took every kind of training they had for volunteers. The next time I applied to go in after my parole was over, I applied to go into Staunton with the local PF group, which had come in there when I was an inmate there. After several very disappointing setbacks, I finally got approved, and the I applied for other prisons. After several years I did not have any more problems getting in as a volunteer.

One year Buckingham had a riot and the warden got his throat cut. The prison was on lock down for over 1 1/2 years. I called week after week to get back in, but nothing, for one and a half years. Finally I called and they said, "Yes," they were opening programs again, however this time I went in under Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry since it was well established in the jails and other state prisons I had been involved in while Buckingham did not have programs. I have been in most of the central VA prisons at one time or another for a Bible study or seminar. Now I do a weekly Bible study at Buckingham every Monday and I do one at Dillwyn every Wednesday for 1 1/2 hours. So as we start year 33, I pray this ministry will have many more as God provides us with a minister to take my place when He calls me home.

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#### Ministry Out-reaches Available:

In-Prison Ministry  
After Care  
Support Groups  
Pen Pal  
Mentoring  
Family Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Bible studies

Ministry training seminars available for local churches.

# What is Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday should be one of the most important days on our calendars every year. This day, celebrated the Sunday before Easter Sunday, reminds us of the time when Christ was about to suffer and die on the cross for our sins, and be resurrected three days later.

What is Palm Sunday and why should it be important to us? Let's talk about that. Palm Sunday, also known as "Passion Sunday," marks the week that leads to Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. It is called "Palm Sunday" because of what happened during this time in history.

**Matthew 21:1-11** tells us that Christ has His triumphal entry to Jerusalem on this day: "Now when they drew near

*Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me.*

*And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."*

*All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:*

*"Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"*

*So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on*

*the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:*

*"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.'"*

**Some people recognized who Jesus was but the majority only saw Him as much less than their Messiah, Lord and Savior. Today we see much the same thing, as some people celebrate Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday with little understanding of who Jesus really is.** (Taken from the Internet)

## The House that many of you built.

As of December 1, the ministry has a couple renting to own the house we call Restoration House. We had every intention to use the house for inmates getting out of prison to go through a 12 month program of work, pray, rent, and be reacquainted back to society. Many of you worked on the repairs and many of you donated financially to this cause. Many of you gave items to use for the house so the residence would have furniture and things needed for them to live comfortably. However even before the house was purchased, I worked many months on all of the literature for the inmates, for the prison, for the director of operations to use to keep track of things needing to be kept for running the program. When we got a chance to buy this house for an extremely good price we prayed and always felt God would have us invest in it. We saw a few problems that might arise, but felt they would not stop this dream. Then after much of the work on the house was finished we started looking for a responsible, qualified man to run the house.

We would need someone there 24/7. It was a large responsibility and we were praying someone would live in the house, with their food, rent, and utilities paid. We hoped to find someone retired and pay him a decent salary, allowing the house to be compensation for part of his salary. We searched for over 2 years and only one qualified man was interested and he did not want to live in the house and, therefore, desired a higher salary and we would also need someone else to run the night shift and pay that salary. This did not fit into our budget at that time, nor would it now. So after a lengthy time of looking and paying the utilities we decided to rent the house out for a year and keep looking for someone to run the house. And we found a couple who needed a place quickly and were ready to move right in. We felt that was God moving for them and for us. They are a fine Christian couple. They are never late with the rent and they are taking care of the house. It is no longer empty, and they pay the utilities. Not only does that save money,

it allows us to put the monthly rent into an account, so if we do find someone to run the house and God allows us to once again purchase a house or farm the money will be there. Also if an unexpected need comes up we will have that money set aside.

We know there were a lot of disappointed people when we made the decision to rent the house, but none any more disappointed than me. However we feel in the long run God allowed many of you, and us, to go through this wonderful thing to bless this ministry financially for many years to come and blessed the family with no credit to establish some and own their own home.

It is the desire of the board that everyone who worked on this house, held banquets to raise money, gave from your own pockets, had contests among VBS students to raise money, and prayed for this to become a reality that you will know how sincerely and how deeply we love and appreciate each you.

# Easter: The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Passover is a solemn feast that celebrates the freedom of the Hebrew people from the bondage of Egypt, recounted in the book of Exodus. A traditional family banquet consisting of a series of home rituals, such as the Passover Seder (Ex. 12,1-14), commemorates the release from captivity of the Jews, led by Moses. It is one of the most important festivities of the Hebrew calendar and it lasts for eight days, starting on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which in our modern calendar would correspond with the last part of the month of March and the first part of the month of April. But it is also corresponds with Easter, one of the two most important celebrations for Christianity. Easter remembers Christ's crucifixion and his glorious resurrection.

## Prior to Easter

Jesus had taken a forty-day journey of fasting and preparation in the desert. That time is represented in the Christian faith as "Lent" – a journey of reflection that allows the time to review, discern, transform and live. It is also a time to recognize that this grace of following Christ is costly.

Just before Easter, Jesus experienced the definitive moment that crowned his coming to earth: he realized he would be condemned for the sins of humanity, even though he was absolutely innocent of all evil.

This took place in Gethsemane (**Matthew 26: 36-50**). As Jesus was meditating and praying, he felt anguish. *Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."*

Jesus sensed that the end was coming. He knew what would happen soon. His Heavenly Father had told him. He knew he was going to be betrayed. Did the betrayal begin with his trusted men sleeping instead of watching and praying?

*Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"*

Soon Judas delivered him for 30 pieces of silver. His life was worth only 30 pieces of silver! Jesus loved Judas, he knew he had to be the "bad guy" in the story. He had compassion for him, but the prophecy had to be fulfilled. *While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd*

*armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."*

## Beginning the Jewish Passover

It was the beginning of the end ... or a new beginning. It depends how you read the story. Jesus was brought before Caiaphas, the high priest. With him were the teachers of the Law. He was later brought before Pilate. Peter denied it three times as the Scriptures say (**Matthew 26: 69-75**). "I do not know that man!" While this was happening, Judas had remorse. **Matt. 27:4** He had confessed his sin, but the priests ignored him. Then he hanged himself, full of remorse and pain. Jesus appeared before the governor, and he asked him: "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied.

He was accused by the chief priests and elders. But Jesus did not answer anything. He remained silent. Pilate asked the people if they wanted him to release the best-known criminal of those days, Barabbas, or Jesus, who was called the Christ. The people asked for Barabbas. They were put up to this by the priests who saw in Jesus an enemy and a blasphemer. They did not understand that he was the Messiah.

When he was taken to Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"), he hung on a cross next to two thieves, insulted, despised and mocked. The day darkened. Jesus gave a great cry saying: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (Which means: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **Mt.27: 46b**). And soon he died. There was a great earthquake and the veil of the Temple in Jerusalem was torn. Joseph of Arimathea, one of his followers, buried Jesus. Since Jesus had predicted that on the third day he would be resurrected, the chief priests and the Pharisees came before Pilate to ask him to seal the tomb. "Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead" (**Mt.27: 64**).

## The Resurrection

At the dawn of the first day of the week Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the sepulcher. There was a great earthquake and an angel spoke to them. *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."*

They ran to tell the disciples, who went to verify the sayings of the women.

*When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.*

*Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.*

*Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.*

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*

*After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

## Saved by grace

The beautiful, historical account we find in the Bible means we can be saved by the grace of Jesus Christ. Easter is why Jesus became a man. He suffered like no other human being. I am excited to think of the Son of God's sacrifice for me. It is a sacrifice that he made for you also, and for every person in this world, from its creation to the end of time.

The entire purpose of humanity is consummated in this act of supreme love – of taking my place on a filthy cross to die like a vile criminal, to be resurrected in glory and to give me peace forever. This love is wonderful. Priceless! It cannot be sold or bought. It is received by faith and by grace. There is nothing I can do to buy it. The price was already paid and there is no other price to improve the offer. I invite you to reflect on the value of the death and resurrection of Jesus in your life. In this Easter season, may we become intimate with the One who gave everything for each one of us. And may we tell the whole world once more: Jesus, the Messiah, is risen!

By Esteban Fernandez, Latin Ministry Director at Biblica, Latin America

## MARCH 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	30	31				

## APRIL 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	30		

**Red** numbers on Mondays, Wednesday evenings I ministry Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons.  
**Blue** is the day I preach at the Holiness Church in Schuyler. **Green** is Palm Sunday & Easter

### 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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## Inmate corner quizzes and answers and poems from inmates

### Answers to Nov/Dec

1. Trumpets (Matt. 6:2)
2. Streets & synagogues (Matt. 6:5)
3. Pagans (Matt. 6:7)
4. Bread (Matt. 6:11)
5. Put oil on your head and wash your face (Matt. 6:17)
6. Moth (Matt. 6:19)
7. The eye (Matt. 6:22)
8. God and money (Matt. 6:24)
9. Birds, lilies, grass (Matt. 6:26, 28)
10. His kingdom and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33)

- 2.) What piece of jewelry did Jesus tell us not to toss to pigs, as a figure of speech?
- 3.) What did Jesus say a father will not give his son if the son asked for bread?
- 4.) What did Jesus say a father would not give his son if the son asked for fish?
- 5.) Jesus said a wide gate and broad road lead to what?
- 6.) Jesus said a small gate and a narrow road lead to what?
- 7.) What did Jesus say the false prophets appeared dressed in to fool people?

- 10.) What three things do the religious do, but, on judgment day, Jesus said that He wouldn't know them?
- Words of Wisdom

#### Words of Wisdom

Dreams can come True,  
If you work hard And do the right Thing.

Be reasonable, Take care of anything that might stand in Your way.

Direction is better Than speed  
Nowadays, People are in a hurry Going no where Fast.

Obstacles are an invitation  
To persevere in faith Success is measured by Perseverance, not accomplishment.

A strong mental Attitude Will create more Miracles Than any wonder drug. A person should never Underestimate their capabilities To change. Because there's never a right Time or place To do a very difficult Thing, and that's change.

Yesterday is history Tomorrow is a mystery Today is God's greatest gift Of life to you, so thank Him and enjoy it.

*This poem is from one of the many men incarcerated who happens to be one of my pen pals.*

If you would like to have something printed in this newsletter send it typed by e-mail and I will look it over and see where we can fit it in.

### Question for March/April

- 1.) What did Jesus tell us we should remove from our own eye before pointing out the speck of sawdust in someone else's eye?

- 8.) What ferocious animal did Jesus compare false prophets to?
- 9.) How did Jesus say you can recognize a false prophet?