

**May/June
2020**

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lived from the inside out

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Tim Miller

Board Members:

Secretary/Treasurer:

Lisa Miller,

Jon Freivald:

Rhonda Via

Steve Via, Joe Faus

Chaplain & Executive

Director:

Ronald R. Baker

Editors:

Non-Board

Member:

Lindsey Wydner,

Phoebe King &

Mary Allen,

The Forth Annual Fundraising Banquet At MT View Mennonite Church

Ministry Outreaches

Available:

In-Prison Ministry

After Care

Support Groups

Mentoring

Pen Pal

Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

Bible courses

Ministry training
seminars available
for local churches

Ministry prayer request and needs

We have been blessed with an additional board member, but we are still looking for one more board member and perhaps someone to actually help Chaplain Ron with some of the administrative work. Much of this could be done from your home through e-mails with attachments to

be worked on.

Because of health issues, we need prayer for Ron that God will allow Him to continue going into the prisons, and that his imbalance and breathing is an ongoing problem. He is seeing doctors to find the cause and get help to stop

them from getting worse. So we would like to have a minister able to take over the preaching and teaching in the prisons when Ron is no longer able to travel to and from the prisons. Many of these requests are repetitious, but the needs are still important.

A Little Trivia About Easter



Caption describing picture or graphic.

What determines when Easter occurs each year? According to a Fourth Century ruling, the date of Easter is set for the first Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon, which is the first full moon of Spring, occurring on or shortly after the Vernal Equinox. Simply speaking, the Paschal Full Moon is the first full moon after the spring equinox. Also called the Egg Moon, this moon sometimes

occurs in March and sometimes in April. The word Paschal means "Passover" in Greek (a transliteration of the Hebrew word pesach). March 22 is the earliest Easter can occur on any given year, and April 25 is the latest. Many Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is written in the New Testament of the Christian bible. Accord-

ing to the Gospel of John in the New Testament, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was buried and found it empty. An angel told her that Jesus had risen.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

What does Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, mean to you?

When I think of Easter, I like to think of the resurrection day, not the week prior and especially the beating of Jesus, spitting in His face, and smacking His head by the guard. Nor the walk down the Via Delatorosa with people shouting blasphemies at Him and soldiers shoving Him. I do not like to remember the

crucifixion and suffering, hours He spent hanging before the people He was dying for. The words, "I thirst," and "it is finished," bring much sadness to me. However, only remembering the resurrection leaves out the cost of our salvation, how much God truly loved us. The resurrection was the culmination of the

price for our freedom from sin. As we celebrate the resurrection with joy and praise, let us never forget all God did to prove His love for us and the suffering Jesus endured so our debt for sin was paid in full forever. Praise the Lord at every opportunity and not just at Christmas and Easter!

Prayer needs for the DOC



Caption describing picture or graphic.

As we see the world around us falling further and further away from the Lord and society becoming more corrupt, those of us serving the Lord in the jails and prisons are experiencing the same thing within the criminal justice system. Where the prisons used to not try to stop Christian programs which help the men pass time in a positive way, now it seem a lot

of institutions will use any excuse to stop programs if at all possible. Men who used to go to a Christian program now have to choose between a church service on Sunday or a Bible study on one night during the week. They are limited to only one service a week. The DOC is so named as the Department of Corrections, but that is no longer true. It is a hous-

ing unit for men and women until they are released with little or no actual help to rehabilitate them. Even the reentry program is basically set to receive funds from the Federal Government and most of the training is outdated and presented haphazardly in many cases. So do not expect much change due to what is done through the DOC.

Please keep these issues in your prayers.

I continue to mention prayer needs within the prison system and I will continue to do so until I see a drastic change for the better for the treatment of inmates through the criminal justice system all over the United States.

While the prisons in the states are much better than in many other countries, they continue to get worse in many ways. One thing I notice is the lack of conformity in the way various officers follow the institutional procedures and a lack

of accountability does not help them try any harder to follow procedures properly. Another thing I see is where programs used to be looked at favorably to help rehabilitate inmates, now, for some reason, they are cut for reasons as minor as budget or not enough security for these programs.

My main problem is how the states are cutting back Christian programs to the bare minimum and our churches and Christian community is not outraged about this. By the time peo-

ple try to do something it could be too late.

How do you want inmates coming out of prison: worse than they went in or with some semblance of a more positive outlook on life and less likely to return to their previous lifestyle? I assure you, prison alone, and even the secularly programs they do have left will not transform minds. Only Jesus can make the necessary changes. I know this from personal experience with the DOC and, without Jesus, there would not have been a



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Happy Mother's & Father's Day

Isn't it great that we have a special day set aside to honor our mothers and fathers? I know if you are close to your parents you do not wait for a special day to honor either of them. As parents get older and need more care and attention I pray the children will always be there for them as the parents were there for the children.

Unfortunately I deal with men and women who no longer have any contact with their parents or parents who no longer have any contact with their children. Many times this was brought on by the inmate I am writing because of their lifestyle or an actual crime again their family.

This is where a good Christian pen pal comes in. Someone who has not been affected by this person, Someone who can look on this hurting individual and

give them the benefit of just writing as a witness for the Lord, to help a lost soul be reconciled to Jesus. It is not for us to judge the sincerity in the confession of the inmate. We leave that to God. It is not up to us to second guess this person wondering if he or she is just misrepresenting him or herself to us. The pen pal program is a way a shy person can be bold in spreading the Good News that there is forgiveness at the cross by letter.

I have had people say, "Those people have committed terrible crimes! How can I witness to them?" Who better to witness to than those who seem the furthest from the Lord? However remember without Christ's salvation you are headed to the same hell as them, even if you have never committed the crimes they have. If you are not born again, you are just as

lost in God's eyes as they are - even though man sees this much differently.

Think of the children without a parent to help them financially or teach them the right way to go. Think of the parent incarcerated and how a witnesses for Jesus could allow the child to receive a parent back after serving their time full of the Holy Spirit to help that family walk the narrow road. If we think about how much everyone needs the Lord, and how no one deserves salvation, then we might have more compassion for people who society considers beyond redemption.

So if you have a good relation with your parents or with your children, praise the Lord! And while you are doing that, pray for broken families that need to be reconciled together and also reconciled with God.

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Caption describing picture or graphic.

MAY 2020

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

JUNE 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Flag Day | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Father's Day | 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.

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 March/April

- 1.Plank/stick of wood (Matt. 7:3)
- 2.Pearls (Matt. 7:6)
- 3.Stone (Matt. 7:9)
- 4.Snake (Matt. 7:10)
- 5.Destruction (Matt. 7:13)
- 6.Life (Matt. 7:14)
- 7.Sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15)
- 8.Wolves (Matt. 7:15)
- 9.By their fruit (Matt. 7:16)
- 10.Prophesying, casting out demons, performing miracles (Matt. 7:22)

Jesus say, "I have not found any-one in Israel with such great faith?"

- 7.) Which apostle's mother-in-law did Jesus heal?
- 8.) What kind of sickness did she have?
- 9.) What did Jesus touch that made her sickness go away?
- 10.) What did she do after she was healed?

Preacher on a Bus

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas.

Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area.

When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's

only a quarter.

Who would worry about this little amount?

Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it.
 Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet.'

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.'

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship.
 I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.'

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and

said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.'

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.

This is a scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test!

Always be on guard — and remember — You carry the name of Christ on your Shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Question for May/June

- 1.) On what material did Jesus say wise men build their house?
- 2.) What three weather occurrences try to bring down the house built on rock?
- 3.) The people said Jesus taught as one having what quality?
- 4.) What was Jesus "willing" to cleanse a man of in Matthew 8?
- 5.) Who did the Roman centurion want Jesus to heal?
- 6.) In Matthew 8, to whom did