

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out !

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Happy New Year to you all!

What are your thoughts to make 2021 a better year?

As I have said in the past each year I try to develop a better way to get a more intimate relationship with the Lord. Sometimes I look at the prior year and think, "If I did this differently, then that might help me develop a closer walk with Jesus." I am not going over the things I have done in past years to develop a better walk. It could come across as bragging and that is not my intent. I know the end is closer than it has ever been in history and I want to be always ready. 1John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." I always encourage families to eat together and pray before the meal to teach their children to be thankful. Ask your children for what are they thankful for today and share that you also have things to share with

them for which you are thankful. Explain why you pray before the meal and why you have a devotional with the children and why you feel studying the Bible, not just reading it to say you did it, is important. These are things a Christian family might do to develop a close Christian relationship within their family.

I know over the years I mentioned I did not pray as much as I thought I should. I always had a prayer but rushed from the prayer to get started on the ministry work always thinking it to be a priority. After I started having a serious morning devotional and praying specifically for people, places, and things, and not just *my* day, the rest of my

work seemed to work out better. I do not know how many churches pass this newsletter on to their congregations, and even then how many people with their busy schedules actually take time to read it, but I feel it is worth writing since I feel God in it and I get comments from inmates all of the time as to how much they enjoy it. Especially when I get a special article from someone else. As you are entering into a new year which could be our last and will be for many people let us seek the Lord: Jer. 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me **with all your heart.** Too many people are only seeking God for what they want from Him

Do you have a daily devotional?

There are many devotionals that will give you a good story to read or verses to read so that if you read them each day you can read through the entire Bible in one year. I have an Aunt who reads through the Bible several times a year. When she said, "Read through the Bible from Genesis through

Revelation," it was hard for me as a young boy to imagine being able to do that. After I started using the Daily Bread each day for many years I found it easy and each time I read through it I found something new and exciting. The Daily Bread is one devotional most jails and prisons get

for free. They also get the Upper Room and some even get Beside Still Waters devotionals. You can go online and see all kinds of ways to read through the Bible every year along with other readings. However, studying the Bible is better so you have a deeper understanding.

The Corona virus or COVID-19

I am not sure what you think of all of the statics on COVID-19. COVID-19 is caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes, seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. I have all three. My question is how much of the statics are actual and how many are built up for reasons we the public are not aware of. If you read a report it says one thing and yet a different report will read something opposite. So which one is right? Please do not get me wrong. I know the virus is very serious, especially for older people who are have certain health issues, so I am not taking the actual virus lightly. I do doubt all of the reporting of the virus cases but feel there are a lot of underlying reasons for the figures than what we are being made aware of.

To blame any one person for the spread of the virus is ludicrous; however, people not following health related mandates is also very foolish. Some people insist everyone should wear a mask and will not go to church or shop in places where people refuse to wear a mask. While others, for whatever reason, always refuse to wear a mask. Who is right and who is wrong?

I do see lots of people not attending church because of the virus and I am praying this watching preaching on TV will not be a per-

manent replacement for attending church in person and not benefiting from the fellowship. I like a good Christian hug from a brother or sister, shaking hands, and a closer relationship with my Christian family, and, of course, that is one thing I really miss from church. Not to mention we are not having Sunday school because of the social distancing. To me Sunday without Sunday School is just half of the worship experience. Needless to say as a bachelor I certainly miss the fellowship meals. However, I am very grateful we hear a good biblically founded message and leave church spiritually fed with a great spiritual meal each week.

Some people say Satan is using the virus to keep people from worshipping. However, I see God allowing this situation to separate the people seeking God with all of their hearts and those halfheartedly seeking the Lord. The outcome will be clear when and if things go back to normal and we see how many people actually come back to church. I do want to make something clear: if you are one who is staying out of church because of people not wearing a

mask, I feel you should do what you feel is best and this article is not to demean how you are handling the virus situation. For those of you who say, "I am not going to wear a mask," that is also up to you. However, I am saying we as Christians should not be doing anything to cause division in the fellowship even if it means a sacrifice as long as it is not contrary to the leading of the Spirit within you.

I am praying for the virus to end as many of you are, and I am also making ready for the return of Jesus if that is the way He chooses to deliver His people from this pandemic. I would be interested in your thoughts on this subject. You see my e-mail address on the front of the newsletter if you want to comment. In fact, I would not mind hearing from lots of people just to actually let me know you are reading the newsletter. If you want to come off of the mailing list just let me know. I know how busy everyone is; however, you can just set the newsletter aside and read it when you have time. There is a lot of work put into this newsletter and we want it to be informative and enjoyable. We also encourage you if you would like to submit an article do so and we will try to use it in a future newsletter as long as it is appropriate.

Please pray for the inmates who have having it much harder than we are in two-man cells, locked in 23 hours a day. Also pray for this ministry and all we are still doing.

The death of a friend!

The death of anyone is something that touches one's heart. If the person is saved there is comfort there for his or her loved ones. When a good friend and Christian brother is in such a painful physical condition they do not want to live any longer that really takes a lot out of his friends. A good Christian brother of mine I have known for years was putting his life together after being incarcerated and he found out he has the same crippling disease his father had died from several years before he got out of prison. He knew of the suffering his father went

through and how his mother suffered right along with him and took care of him until the Lord finally took him home. As my brother in Christ continued to suffer the effects of the disease he tried to keep his suffering quiet for his mother with whom he was living. He tried to work and his physical condition would not allow him to do manual labor. He tried to get his parole officer to allow him other less physically demanding

jobs, and even after he was allowed to do that as his health got worse, even office work became impossible. He lost feeling in his hands and developed other difficulties. So as he knew the end was coming and did not want his mother to have to take care of him like she had taken care of his father for many years, he made his mind up to save his mother from that **trouble** and he took his own life. As one who pondered that though but did not have

the nerve to go through with it, I wonder what went through his mind the morning he walked out of the house and left a note, "I love you mom." He was saved. Will God forgive him for this? Many would say, "No, it is an unpardonable sin," but that is not how I read unforgivable sin. Please pray for this family (names not mentioned, but God knows). Also pray for the many people who feel this is the answer.

Private prison: Good or bad for the inmate and the tax payer?

List of Cons of Private Prisons:

1. Private prisons can choose which prisoners they take.
2. They have no obligation to the community where the prison is located.
3. Employees face higher risks of violent conduct in private prisons. .
4. It creates a unique lobbying effort.
5. Employees make less when working at a private prison.
6. For-profit prisons may not offer any cost-savings advantages.
7. It doesn't change the turnover rate of employees.
8. Private prisons tend to limit training opportunities.
9. It could create a system of dependency.
10. It lessens the levels of transparency within the system.
11. It creates the potential for bribery and corruption.

Privatization of Prisons:

Is It a Good Idea?

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that it would begin to phase out the use of private prisons for federally-based inmates. During the announcement, the DOJ noted that the reason for discontinuing the service was that for-profit prisons compared poorly to facilities that were operated by the government. They found that for-profit prisons provided fewer services, had higher safety risks, and had higher security risks without producing a substantial level of savings.

There are studies which also suggest that the opposite is also true. In addition, the private sector can always be incentivized to perform better, which is something that can be difficult to do from a public standpoint.

It all depends on one question: do we as a society feel that private corporations should run

prisons? If so, then we must find ways to improve conditions while encouraging prisoner rehabilitation and reform the model. If not, then perhaps now is the time to pull the plug on this experiment.

Private prisons are not only **bad** for inmates, they are **bad** for employees as well. Employees of **private prisons** make \$5,000 less per year than their government counterparts and receive nearly 60 hours less training, according to a study done by the Justice Policy Institute

The Bureau of Prisons says they cost, on average, **17 dollars** a day less per prisoner to operate, suggesting those 11 facilities save taxpayers **144 million dollars** a year. A 2016 study by the Brookings Institution found those savings are achieved primarily by hiring fewer correctional officers and paying them less. Jun 24, 2017.

A 2016 report from the Justice Department found that private **prisons** had a 28 percent higher rate of inmate-on-inmate assaults and more than twice as many inmate-on-staff assaults, as well as twice as many illicit weapons than comparable federal facilities. Feb 2, 2018

How do prisons make money off inmates?

A private **prison** is run by a corporation. That corporation's end goal is to profit from anything they deal in. In order to **make money** as a private **prison**, they receive a stipend from the government.

This **money** from the government can be paid in a

multitude of different ways.

Do taxpayers pay for private prisons?

Private prison companies claim they can **do** the work of the government for less money. ... **There is no evidence that they actually save taxpayers any money.** In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics reported in 2016 that the cost-savings promised by **private prisons** have simply not materialized.

What Are the Disadvantages of Private Prisons?

Prisoners tend to serve longer sentences in private prisons. Many private prisons do not house costly prisoners. Private prisons can leave communities with costly facilities that are empty. Private prisons tend to be more violent because of low staffing levels.

What are the arguments for and against private prisons?

The pros of **private prisons** include lower operating cost, controlling the population of prisoners, and the creation of jobs in the community. **Cons of private prisons** include a lack of cost-effectiveness, security and safety concerns, poor conditions, and the potential for corruption.

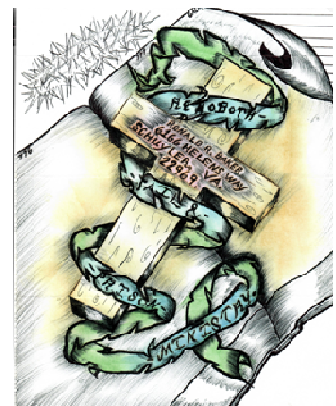
Do prisons make money from prisoners?

Private **prison** companies typically enter into contractual agreements with governments that commit **prisoners** and then pay a per diem or monthly rate, either for each **prisoner** in the facility, or **for each place available**, whether occupied or not.

Who invests in private prisons?

Wells Fargo has around \$100 million **invested** in GEO Group and \$6 million in CCA. Other major investors include **Bank of America, Fidelity Investments, General Electric** and **The Vanguard Group.** Are private prisons better or worse than public prisons? Some research has concluded that for-profit **prisons** cost more than **public prisons.** Furthermore, cost estimate from **privatization** advocates may be misleading, because **private** facilities often refuse to accept inmates that cost the most to house.

While this is just some of the reports on private prisons, I read over many and none of them really gave a glowing report on the success of private prisons. In fact many states that started with private prisons are not phasing them out and the federal government is also phasing them out. VA has one private prison, and it does not seem to be saving the state or the tax payers any money. Plus their health care is worse and the safety of the staff and inmates is very questionable.



Some of the art work sent to me from many of the pen pals.

JAN 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King's Birthday	19	20	21	22	23
24/	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEB 2021

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

Red numbers on Mondays and Wednesdays | ministry 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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Inmate corner quizzes and answers and poems from inmates

Answers to Nov/Dec questions

1. Asleep (Matt. 9:24)
2. They laughed. (Matt. 9:24)
3. Son of David (Matt 9:27)
4. Demon possession (Matt. 9:32)
5. Workers (Matt. 9:37)
6. Peter/Simon (Matt. 10:2)
7. Simon the Zealot (Matt. 10:4)
8. Judas Iscariot (Matt. 10:4)
9. Samaritans (Matt. 10:5)
10. The lost sheep of Israel (Matt. 10:6)

Question for Jan/Feb 2001

1. What items did Jesus tell the twelve not to take with them?
2. What did Jesus say to do to unfriendly towns as they left?
3. Jesus said if a town rejected them, it would be more bearable for what twin city that for that town?
4. What reptile did Jesus tell

- His followers to be as shrewd as?
5. What bird did Jesus tell His followers to be as innocent as?
6. Where did Jesus warn them that they would be flogged.
7. Jesus said not to worry about what to say because who would be speaking through them.
8. Jesus said not to worry about the one who could kill the body, but to fear the one who could kill what
9. According to Jesus, how many sparrows are sold for a penny?
10. What part of our body did Jesus say God has numbered?

Poems from inmates

WHERE!

Where did I go wrong I really cannot tell. But wherever it is I must say It's put me through a lot of hell I would not listen to the Cops or to my dearest folks I would only laugh and

swear and think them all a joke Id rob, plunder wreck and steal Not knowing what I'd done I laugh with my so-called friends Boy what a lot of fun Id get stoned drunk or both and really be out of my head I'd go along and do it all and prison is where it led I should have listened to them all and taken their advice but since I've been here a friend I've found His name Jesus Christ Its through Him that I found the way He showed me where I was wrong He taught me how to love and live and sing a happy song. When I get out in a year or so

I'm going to change my way Ill make it better I know now for I have learned to pray

All Because of Me

I have walked all my life lonely and alone always drunk, high, or stoned, life

was so easy for so very long, until my sins started adding up and destroying my heart, the more I sinned, the more I hurt, I lost my family, I lost my kids, I lost my wife, I lost my mind, I lost all I had and blamed it on someone else, refusing to man up, I blamed my dad, I blamed my mom, my ex-wife, my ex-friends for all my hurt and pain and all the people that came into my life that said that they would never leave but exed me out of their lives, Never thinking it was because of me. They all left. Through all my pride and selfishness not willing to see, It was all me, I lost it all because of me.

This poem is another one from an inmate pen pal. I also get lots of beautiful art work