

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out

Nov. / Dec 2021

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Pen Pal (letter writing)

Mentoring

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Youth Ministry

Restoration House

**Ministry training
seminars are**

**available for local
churches.**

Merry Christmas

**Matt. 5:7 "Blessed are
the merciful for they
shall obtain mercy."**

Here we are celebrating Christmas once again. While many of us await the coming of the Lord Jesus for His church, others continue celebrating something man has perverted so drastically you wouldn't recognize it as a celebration of a birth, much less the birth of The Savior of the world. I try not to get too angry at the ignorance of people who celebrate this wonderful holiday inappropriately. In fact, I feel sorry for them, especially those who teach their children a false reason for this holiday avoiding the most important information ever revealed to mankind. That information is, "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we

might live through Him." (1 John 4:9)

Even many of those who include Jesus as part of the celebration do not emphasize Jesus' importance, over the worldly influence of the way Christmas is celebrated. Some might tell their children the story of a baby being born in a manger, but for what purpose was He born and what importance is His birth to us today? Each year I share with someone about the way Christmas is celebrated, knowing that many church-going people are guilty of not fully expressing the importance of the reason Jesus was born and then at Easter remembering how He fulfilled many prophecies having to do with proof of Jesus being who the Bible states He is.

This needs to be a priority in the life of every parent: to teach their children the truth about Christmas and Easter and to "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." (Pro. 22:6)

Let's exalt Jesus at every opportunity in these last days.

**Watch and pray as the day
approaches.**



The New Year's Right Around the Corner: What are Your Plans?

I have lots of things I want to stop doing or start doing for the upcoming year. There are always lots of changes one needs to make that should not be put off until a future time. They need to be done or undone as soon as one realizes the need through the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Some of the things I need to give up are ongoing issues, with

which I certainly need the help of the Lord. I have also got myself an accountability partner, who has my permission to ask me at any time how certain things, which he is holding me accountable for, are going. Do you have anything for which you need an accountability partner? He or she will need to be someone you can trust, someone

with compassion, and not judgmental, but one who will truly hold you accountable. I always suggest your accountability partner be of the same gender as you. With the addition of an accountability partner, there are three involved in my situation. God is the first One I look to. His will for me in my every day life is a priority.

A Poem From One of My Past Pen Pals

Poem When Jesus Looks

My name is Christian James Grand, and it is important for me to express these words.

When Jesus looks upon my life, what picture does He see? Does He see His own reflection, or does He just see me? Does He see His likeness, the product of His hand, or just another Christian who never took a stand? Does He see a child of God, a child that he made free, living life to honor Him, or does He just see me?

What about the other folks I meet along the way? Do I show them Jesus, to brighten up their day? When someone looks into my eyes can they truly see that calm and gentle Peace of God that dwells inside of me? When I reach out and shake a hand, is He right there in my grip? Can they feel that strength from God that steadies when I slip? When folks are in my presence, do they know His spirit is there? Can they see that He is the one who guides me everywhere?

When other people think of me, what is on their mind? Do they think of Jesus Christ, so gentle and so kind? I try to be like Jesus every single day, spreading love and kindness all along the way. I'm afraid that I have failed; I could not pass the test. Deep inside my heart, I know I haven't done my best. I have had to fight my flesh since the day that I was born; it's always causing trouble and being such a thorn. That's why His spirit dwells in me; He's helping me to learn in every situation.

Where I need to turn, He knew I'd never pass the test. That is why He took my place. He gave His life to save my soul, He suffered my disgrace. Now I try to be like Him; I must represent Him well, so other people should see the joy that Christ has given me. They should want to have it too, especially since it is free. They should begin to ask me, what it is they must do. Just how it is they go about getting Jesus too.

Then I go to tell them this wonderful gift is free. It only takes a humble heart, a prayer on bended knee. Some day

when I am face to face with the Lord, who he has made free, will He see His own reflection or will He just see me?

For many years now, I've been trying to better myself. I've been in prison since I was 18 years old. I am now going on 42. I was a kid hooked on meth, robbing Circle K. Received a 17 year term. While in prison, I became worse. I became a member of the Nazi Low Rider prison gang. I spent over 10 years straight in solitary confinement, and S.H.U. (security housing unit). I caught 8 more years in prison to add to my 17 years. January 2003, I was sitting in the S.H.U., helpless, hopeless, in deep despair, losing everyone in my life. The only one that seemed to stay loyal was the devil.

In my darkest moment, I fell to my knees and accepted Jesus into my life. From that point on, I have been on a path of change. The only reason why I came to Jesus was because of prison fellowship and prison ministry. My pen pal stayed writing me while I was an active prison gang member, telling me how much Jesus loved me regardless of what I was going through.

Twenty-three years in prison and I am finally on the tail end of my time. Down to 7 months left. What I know for sure without a shadow of a doubt, if it was not for prison ministry in my life, and countless people volunteering their time to tell me how much Jesus loved me, I wouldn't be here today and that's the God's honest truth.

This is a man who I started writing in 7/5/13 and he wrote me until he got out 5/15/18. He is the second longest writing pen pal I had at that time. He contacted me right before his release. Unfortunately he was back in prison for a parole violation which could of been a minor infraction. He is no longer writing. But he is still in my prayers. I will not give up!



Pen Pals

The pen pal ministry continues to grow, and we give God all of the glory. Recently I got a second request for a female volunteer from a male inmate. I explained again that was not something we do. He said he knew of other pen pal outreaches that actually charged for this privilege. He also said some of the ones he heard about either do not respond because it seems they have too many requests, or they send a form letter stating it could be 18-24 months before they could get them a pen pal.

I am both blessed and happy to say our requests get a letter the same day or next day stating that I will be their pen pal until we find a volunteer to write. Many inmates have commented that they had written many other outreaches and never heard back that fast if at all.

I now have over 41 volunteers writing around 136 inmates; however, it is hard to keep up with them and do the other work I do. I like to check every once in a while to see if the inmate is still writing and if they need another pen pal. Some of the volunteers do not seem to know how important it is when I tell the inmate he or she now has a pen pal for them to write. Letters are not as important to the ones on the outside as to the ones on the inside. So if volunteers put it off and then forget to write and the inmate writes back asking what happened to their Christian pen pal, it can be devastating. Several of the families pen pals are writing more than one inmate. Some are writing 5 inmates. Others are writing 13 inmates, and we are getting new requests from inmates at an average of 5 a week. We got 27 requests in July for pen pals. None of the volunteers who are writing so far have any thing negative to report from their experience. Praise the Lord!

Let's Look at How the 31th Day of Jubilee Went



To the left Pastor Todd Peck of LWCF welcomes visitors to the 31st Day of Jubilee once again held at Living Word Christian Fellowship (LWCF) on September

29 by Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry. We had a smaller crowd that year than last year and less people last year than the

year before; however, the ones who attended seemed



to enjoy the purpose of the day which was to praise God and celebrate His wonderful mercy and love toward those who many society would rather forget.



This celebration is basically about praising God for His work in the jails

and prisons, and for the families of the inmates through various prison ministries. It also speaks to the fact that God's Word saves souls in the jails and prisons as well as out here in the world. Even those who do not have an interest in prison outreach could enjoy this celebration if they seek to worship and praise God. There are many people I need to thank. If I started naming individuals, I will forget someone and I appreciate every bit of help we have from those of the youth group who set up the tables, to the ones who helped at the beginning of the celebration, and those who unselfishly stayed behind and helped with the clean up. I appreciated all of the food that people brought and many who did not get to attend sent food. I definitely felt the love of my congregation through their support and prayers. Thanks to the ladies who took control of getting all of the food organ-



ized and set up for the meal.

I am including some pictures of some

of the people who were involved in the Jubilee. There were many testimonies from ex-offenders and other Christians involved in the pen pal ministry. They shared from both perspectives the joy of writing and receiving letter the old fashion way. Many people do not write letters these days because of more modern and instant means of communication; however, once the pen pals start writing, they realize the intimacy in writing and reading a letter



over a quick text or e-mail and they change their minds. Here are a couple of ex-offenders who gave a stunning testimony not only of the letter writing, but how

God changed their lives while in prison and how they want to now serve the Lord as He directs them in what He wants them to do. This was a high point in the celebration.



We also heard the presentation of the new partner of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry, the "Bible Readers Outreach Ministry." They showed the materials they share with inmates and the Bible lessons they mail out to inmates all over the USA. We are blessed to have them



join with us and now we have Bible studies available for inmates along with the other outreaches we try to provide in partnering with the local churches. We had a wonderful time learn-

ing how God is working in the jails and prisons to save the lost. When people hear testimonies of the work God is doing through something as simple as

sitting at home in a comfortable chair taking a few minutes to write a letter, some hearts are changed and they want to be a part of that.



If all of this is not enough to encourage you to join us, how about this line of deserts and the food in these other pictures?



There was enough food to serve seconds and even thirds if someone was still hungry.



I would like to invite you to the Fund Raising Banquet which will hopefully be held on March 5, 2022 The

location will be revealed at a later time. It is much like the Jubilee held on the other side of Afton Mt. and closer to the many folks over there that support the Rehoboth Jail & Prison ministry. More information and directions will be sent out as the time for that event approaches. The next annual Day of Jubilee will be held at the same place next year on Saturday, September 24, 2022, God willing. If you want to, please put these dates on your calendar so nothing will prevent you from attending.



This is the update for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry and Bible Readers Outreach Ministry for the months of June/July 2021

Bible Readers Outreach Ministries:

In Aug. 2021 we mailed out 275 Bible lessons, enrolled 24 new students, mailed 10 Bibles at \$275.67, 16 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$317.15. Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$49.35, Stamps \$207 for a total of \$ 849.17

In Sept. 2021 we mailed out 289 Bible lessons enrolled 36 new students, mailed 11 Bibles cost of \$226.99, 5 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$103.22 and Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$390.55 Stamps \$722.00 a total of \$ 1667.31S

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:

In Aug. 2021 I wrote 168 letter and received 31 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal. New volunteers to write inmates 1 writing 10 inmates

In Sept. 2021 I wrote 129 letter and received 22 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal. 4 new volunteers to write inmates 24 inmates.

I am still receiving letter written in Spanish which I can not read. I have no Hispanic volunteers to respond to these request. I had a friend write a generic response stating we have no Hispanic volunteer. Are you interested?

Please keep both The Bible Readers Outreach Ministry and Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry in your prayers. As we continue to serve the Lord as He direct us with inmates and their families. Join us there is lots of work to go around.

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

"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:

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**Answers to Questions in
Sept/Oct Issue**

- 1.) Weeds (Matt. 13:25)
- 2.) Mustard seed (Matt. 13:32)
- 3.) Yeast (Matt. 13:33)
- 4.) The world (Matt. 13:38)
- 5.) The people of the kingdom (Matt. 13:38)
- 6.) satan (Matt. 13:39)
- 7.) Angels (Matt. 13:39)
- 8.) A hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44)
- 9.) James, Joseph, Simon, Judas (Matt. 13:57)

Questions in Nov/Dec

10.) A prophet (Matt. 13:57)
Because of His hometown's lack of faith, what did he do while there?
What was the full title of Herod who had John the Baptist killed?
Who was Herod's wife?
When Herod took Philip's

wife, what was Philip's relationship to Herod?
Whose daughter danced for Herod?
What was the occasion that she danced at?
Who did Herod have beheaded?
Where was John already when they came to behead him?
What was his head displayed

**Poems from inmates just
as I received inmates**

on?
Who buried John the Baptist's body?

Running From Everything

Always in a hurry, like your feet are on fire,

Living that speed life like there's no future or tomorrow

Uppers to get you goin'
Downers to stay sane

Rushing though life, chasing

that death train

Everything you care about,
gets lost in the rush

But the only item you notice,
is when you sober up,

Then in comes the hurt, surrounded by pain,

The reality of all you've lost
comes crashing down and
crushing what's left of your heart

So back to the speed life, it
helps deal with the pain

Your mind and your body are
going so fast, it has no time to
sit and think about all the
things that have hurt you so
bad

Then sometimes that don't
work, so you add alcohol to
the fix to drown out what still
hurts,

So now your stumbling
through life all in a blur

Runnin' from the things
you've done and the people
you've hurt.

Not to mention all the things
that started the hurt and pain

The things you run from, the
things that have hurt you and
drove you insane

And this is the speed life of
runnin' from everything

This completes yet another
year of ministering to the inmates, their families and all of you who take you valuable time to read this newsletter. In March we will begin this ministries 35th year, and we are very thankful for all of the prayers, financial support and encouragement we have had over these years. This ministry would not exist without the call of God and anointing of His Holy Spirit, the prayers and support of so many of you even inmates contributing