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available for local
churches.****Banquet 2020**

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2021**CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT**

34th Day of Jubilee Event: September 25

After missing the banquet in March this year, and the Day of Jubilee last September, we are looking forward to seeing many of you ministry friends at the celebration we will hold at Living Word Christian Fellowship (LWCF) located at 5150 Lowesville Rd., Arrington, VA, 22922. We plan on having the testimonies of ex-offenders who have come to know the Lord through various prison ministries and we will also have various people explaining the joy being involved in writing letters to inmates. Some will share about writing letters and reading about how God is changing the inmate's life through the gospel being shared through letters. Some will share about Bible correspondence courses mailed to them by us during this pandemic when family were not allowed

to visit and there were no spiritual programs, but instead inmates were mostly confined to the cell or pod area 23 or 24 hours a day, being allowed a shower and maybe to use the phone once in a while. They will share about being fed cold cuts three times a day in the cell and not even being allowed to go outside even wearing a mask and staying at the required social distance. It has been a true blessing being able to continue ministering during these trying times, even though we could not actually go into the prisons. We still managed to get Bible lessons to many more inmates than the one I actually was able to visit at the two prisons I was going into. Mrs. Barbara Holmes and her daughter Beke will be there once again and share some of the many great blessings God is provid-

ing through their Bible studies that are going to many states, including Hawaii, and one inmate in Thailand. She sends me many requests for someone looking for a pen pal and when inmates ask about a Bible study I can e-mail her about it and one goes out that same day. There will be other activities and sharing about what is going on through this ministry and opportunities for individuals and churches to partner with us. Even though some giving was down we have not been short because God provided the things needed for the ministry for the mailings and newsletters. We will be having a meal and we hope many of you will contact us with what dish you might like to provide for that meal. We hope to see you there!

I wonder how many church goers today fit into this verse below.

Rom. 1:21 "because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Lots of people today seem not to be seeking the Lord with all of their heart, allowing social unrest and growing persecution to cause them to doubt the soon coming of the Lord. John 1:29 "They went out from us, but they were not

of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us." This is what Scripture says about many church goers who will fall away before the end. I seem to see many people in society becoming so busy in the physical life providing for their physical comforts that they are not feeding the spirit and seeking God will all of

their heart. They only seek Him when they need something. I remember being like that, but when I submitted everything to Jesus He changed my desires and He can do that for you as well. Instead of only praying for things here to get better I have finally realized Rev 22:20 and I now pray, "He who testifies to these things says, '**Surely I am coming quickly.**'" Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

2016 Day of Jubilee



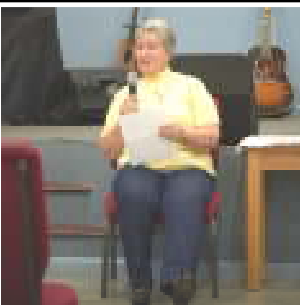
Ministry Board 2021



Mrs. Berry who makes sure the meals are put together



Ladies of LWCF preparing the meal



Mrs. Holmes shares about the Bible Readers Outreach ministry

Are we ready to face true Persecution? Polycarp

Greg Laurie

In a way, persecution will separate the real from the false, the genuine from the fake. If you are a true follower of Jesus, then you won't back down if a little persecution comes your way. If God allows persecution in your life, then He will give you the strength to face it.

We find this to be true in the case of Polycarp, a great hero of the Christian faith. The pastor of the church in Smyrna, he was martyred on February 23 in A.D. 155. On that day, the public games were taking place, and the crowds were whipped into a real frenzy. Someone cried out, "Let Polycarp be searched for!"

The night before, Polycarp had a dream in which the pillow under his head was

on fire. He woke up and told his fellow believers, "I must be burned alive." When Polycarp was arrested, he asked for the privilege of having a final hour to spend with the Lord in prayer.

As Polycarp entered the Roman arena, God spoke to his heart and said, "Be strong, Polycarp, and play the man." The Roman proconsul gave him the choice between cursing the name of Christ and making a sacrifice to Caesar, or dying. Polycarp said, "Eighty-six years I have served the Lord. He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?"

When the proconsul threatened him with being burned at the stake, Polycarp re-

plied, "You threaten me with the fire that burns for a time and is quickly quenched, but you do not know the fire that awaits the wicked and the judgment to come into everlasting punishment. Why are you waiting? Come and do what you will."

The crowds went crazy, providing firewood and kindling from their woodshops. There Polycarp stood, and they set the wood around him on fire. Amazingly, the fire did not harm him. It came right up to him and would not burn him, while Polycarp sang praises to God.

Finally, they couldn't wait any longer and thrust him through with spears. Polycarp showed true courage in the face of true persecution.

What has the pandemic taught us?

At first when the prisons locked down and I could not go in for the weekly Bible Studies, I was upset. But after God showed me a positive side I learned how to adapt. Our ministry had Bible study courses ready to mail in for many more inmates than I could see at the two prisons I visited and we will be able to continue going strong during this troubling time. I also found help available going to the store for me and doing banking for me since my health make me more vulnerable to the COVID 19 virus than many. I saw restaurant food prices go up because less people were eating out because of re-

strictions and I saw many businesses suffering because of the government control, whether it was right or wrong. I have not agreed with a lot of the restrictions, but I obeyed them to the best of my ability. I have learned, however, in a tragic time like this, many people will take advantage of other for money. I remember when at first toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and other paper products could not be found because of people hoarding them, not being concerned for others. In fact many people tried to see what they hoarded in the parking lot of the stores they bought them from. The

one main thing I learned is the end seems nearer that it ever has been. I have never seen so much corruption in our government and back biting and one party so spiteful toward the other party that they would change policies that were working just fine just because it was not brought about by their party. This time for me has been a time of learning how to adapt with an unseen virus that has seemingly taken control of the world, but I am so glad I am not a part of this world and God is in control of my life. I have learned to trust Him even more than ever.

As the end approaches, how close to the Lord are you?

I get letters all of the time from men whose lives have fallen apart while living to enjoy the lust of the flesh, the lust of their eyes, and the pride of life. They knew about God, but He was not important enough to them to seek Him with all of their heart. Jer. 29:12, 13 12 "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Let's take a close look at these verses.

Verse 12 speaks of calling upon the Lord. When is it and why is it that you call on the Lord? Many men I hear from call on Him after they have received the payment for their corrupt lifestyle. My question is when and why do you call upon God? Then verse 13 says we will seek Him and find Him when we seek Him with all of our heart. I do not see anything that tells us we should seek Him only when in need and just a quick half-hearted prayer. I am not sure after all the world has gone

through in the last year that all so-called Christians are truly seeking God with all of their hearts. To seek God with all of our hearts we need to be obedient in order to show our love and to seek His approval of our lives and to help us correct wrong doing. Do we seek Him to praise and honor Him for He is worthy of all honor, glory, and praise? Do you only speak to the Lord when you want something or when things are not going well? If so then repent and give God all the glory.

A thought I had one Sept. 30, 2002

The seasons change and the beauty of each season renews my knowledge of what an awesome and loving God you are. Let me be willing to be joyful in all the areas of change you bring in my life, knowing it is for my good that all things come upon me.

What can you do for the Lord in these last days?

We are mailing out Bible correspondence courses to inmates all over the states and we have hundreds of them learning more about Jesus through these lessons. We give God all of the glory for this success. We also write hundreds of inmates. I have, at this time, around 55 volunteers writing over 200 inmates and I have around 135 more inmates writing me waiting until I can find them a pen

pals. Each time I mention this need I share the joy it brings to many people writing and receiving letters, but there still seems to not be much interest. I know life is busy, but when something as easy as sitting in the comfort of one's own home taking 20 to 30 minutes to write a letter I feel they are missing out on a real treat in life. To the right are two past pen pals from one of the prisons I was allowed to take

pictures in.

So I am once again offering you an opportunity to serve the Lord from Matt.25:41 but instead of visiting an inmate you can honor the Lord by writing one and you do not even have to leave the house to do this. If you still choose not to write for whatever reason please pray for this.



Pen pals

If you are looking for a worthy ministry to support and pray for, try Bible Readers Outreach

In 2018 Rehoboth Jail & Prison ministry was blessed to have The Bible Readers Outreach Ministry join us. For 33 years we had been going into prisons and jails preaching and teaching a weekly Bible study. Some time during these years we began writing letters to a few inmates which turned into one of the largest outreaches to share God's love with more inmates all over the world. So the ministry was growing and we had

much for which to be thankful. Churches were opening their door to families of inmates we referred to them and then when the inmate got released he or she had a church to attend to help them maintain a strong Christian fellowship. Then God, foreseeing the pandemic coming, allowed us to partner with Bible Readers ministry and now we can mail out Bible lessons covering the entire Bible - not just to the inmates in Virginia,

but all over the world. That ministry has been established for many years before we partnered, and already has hundreds of inmates receiving Bible lessons. When an inmate finishes so many studies, they get a new Bible. After finishing so many more, they receive a dictionary/concordance and later other study aids. The lessons are graded and mailed back with a stamped envelope addressed to the ministry, so indigent in-

mates can still participate. So if you are interested, please send your donations to Bible Reading Outreach Ministry, Barbara Holmes, 3152 Glenn Huskey Rd, Sevierville, TN 37862. Thank you!

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 June 2021 we mailed out 296 Bible lessons, enrolled 63 new students, mailed 9 Bibles at \$164.39 Bible dictionaries/concordances 7 at \$124.90. Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$177.02, Stamps \$312.15 for a total of \$ 778.46

In July 2021 we mailed out 296 Bible lessons enrolled 51 new students, mailed 10 Bibles cost \$319.79 57 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$111.18 and Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$115.65 Stamps \$1233.90 for a total of \$ 1780.49

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:

In June 2021 I wrote 164 letter and received 43 new request during that month for volunteer pen pals. New volunteers to write inmates. None

In July 2021 I wrote 152 letter and received 32 new request during that month for volunteer pen pals . New volunteers to write inmates. None

I am also received letter written in Spanish from time to time which I cannot 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 divisions of this ministry in your prayers. Since I send the letter to be edited and give the editors time to edit I go back a few months so we can get an accurate count and not have to wait until the last day to add the month before the newsletter goes out.

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."

Ministry Address:

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Ronald R. Baker, Chaplain 6166 Helens Way
Schuyler, VA 22969-9607 E-mail: rrbak@juno.com

Phone: (434) 831-2593

Web site: www.jailandprisonministries.org

Questions & answer for this quiz

Inmate Corner

Answers to July/Aug questions

- 1.) Satan/Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24)
- 2.) The Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31)
- 3.) Every careless word (Matt. 12:36)
- 4.) Wicked and adulterous (Matt. 12:39)
- 5.) Jonah (Matt. 12:40)
- 6.) Seven (Matt. 12:44-45)
- 7.) Birds (Matt. 13:4)
- 8.) The Good News/the message (Matt. 13:19)
- 9.) The cares of the world/ riches (Matt. 13:22)
- 10.) Thirty, sixty, a hundred (Matt. 13:23)

Questions for Sept/Oct quiz

1. In a parable, what did Jesus say the enemy planted in a field of wheat?

1. What seed did Jesus call the smallest of all the seeds?
3. In a parable using bread, what did the woman use that permeated the dough?
4. In the parable of the weeds, what did the field represent?
5. In the parable of the weeds, what did the good seed represent?
16. In the parable of the weeds, who did the enemy represent?
7. Who were the harvesters in Jesus' parable of the weeds?
8. In a parable Jesus spoke, what did the man find in a field that caused him to sell everything and buy it?
9. Name four of Jesus' siblings mentioned in Matthew 13.
10. Who did Jesus say has no honor in his hometown?

Poems and stories from inmates

Love Jesus

Satan will try to distract, discourage, and defeat you. He will try to use difficult circumstances to plant seeds of hatred and bitterness in your heart. Resist him. Give Me all the pain, persecutions and problems in your life. They are not yours to bear. They are mine. Bring Me all the bitterness, bondage and brokenness of your past. I am not the author of the tragedies you have had to experience in life. But in My sovereignty I will work out all things to your good and My glory. Stand firm in the authority of My Word and trust Me for the victory! Through Me you can tri-

umph over every challenge and trial of life! I am your Counselor and Conquering King! Never forget that I am continually interceding to our Father on your behalf. You will walk through many fires and trials in life. Expect them. But at the same time rest in the unwavering assurance of My Power, My Promises and My Provision. I will lead you only where My grace will sustain you. You will not always understand the divine plan I have for your life, Trust Me. In Me and Me alone lies your joy, your strength, and your success in life!

I use poems unedited, which are appropriate for this newsletter from inmates and other who wish to share.