

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Happy New Year

Changing lives from the inside out.

Matt. 25:36
I was in prison and ye came unto me.

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

More inmates expresses concern for a Restoration House

Board Members

Chairman:

Tim Miller

Members:

John H. Miller

Joe Arbaugh

Secretary/
Treasurer:

Lisa Miller

Non-Board

Members

Editor:

Artis Mules

Chaplains/
Ministers

Friends,

I am a regular old person who was raised in a middle income family and growing up I can't really say as we had any wants that went unfulfilled. I was fortunate enough to have a mother and father and a stable household; a loving environment hopefully like yours and I still am grateful to God for it.

However, through my life's path, I lost the home and children of my own which I had worked hard and did my absolute very best to provide for, just as my parents had. It is hard to continue after losing everything earthly that you love. So, it is that I now am writing to you as a friend in the family of Jesus and asking you to please care for the ones in your immediate life and if possible those not in your daily life's routine. We can help and

learn from one another.

The need for stable housing is a very real and pressing issue all across the United States and certainly not just among convicts anymore, but all walks of life. Truth. It would be very helpful particularly to men and women who may have only made one bad decision or choice and as a result lost everything they had materially speaking if you could find it in your hearts and it be God's will to exhort and help a brother or sister in need for we are just people as y'all.

A stable home is priceless; it allows us to have a period of time to readjust ourselves to living among

the free society and would provide relief from the immediate concerns of all the money problems that seem to come right along with that.

I think that is a blessing we should all be thankful for and if you so chose, your help would be highly appreciated. May God bless us all accordingly,

A friend in Jesus



Inmates confirm the need to have a place to parole especially after serving long sentences in prison.

What's up in your New Year?



Once again I will be reading through the Bible, following the Daily Bread daily Bible reading along with my copy of The Upper Room. I have heard people say this is not the best way to read through the Bible. However, I find it very productive, though it is not the means in

which I actually study the Bible. I do that after I do my daily devotional. While I am reading my morning reading, I come across scripture God brings out to me for a possible message, day after day, and then I can study more intensely and use that study for a message.

So I impress upon you – faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God. If you want to build up your faith, you need to read, hear, and study God's Word. Daily devotionals are one way. God bless you all.

Starting another year of service to God.

As you start yet another year in your life, perhaps it might be time to reflect on what your life is all about. Search your heart to see what your priorities are. You might also reflect on the question, "Will I still be here tomorrow?" Most people today feel they have all the time necessary to put off until tomorrow serving the Lord today. Some say, "When I retire I will have lots of time for serving God." Some say (and I hear this all the time), "I am just too busy." Well, what are they busy doing? I know I mention this topic a lot at churches and even in the institutions where I minister. I see the work of the Lord going undone in many congregations with people using the excuse "too busy" as the reason it is not being done by them. If it is something to be done without pay, it does not get done. If people could realize the spiritual rewards for serving the

Lord and being faithful to His service, they would not always leave that work for someone else. They would end up more stable in their finances if they would not put God's work aside for their own desires for earthly comforts and the most modern conveniences. When I felt God calling me to full time ministry, I had a very good paying job with lots of overtime. When we got laid off because of a lull in business for a couple of months during the winter, God seemed to be saying to me that I should not go back but start a full time prison ministry and my own business. God seemed to have said that once before, but I did

not heed that call. When I finally started working for myself and putting more and more time into the prison work, it gave me a much better understanding of priorities. I will not say there were not some hard times; there were times when there was little money, but that brought me to my knees before the Lord. Since I stepped out if faith 22 years ago to serve the Lord, I have never gone hungry or had a time when there was not enough fuel to get to the prison. Once I had enough fuel to get to the prison but not enough to get back, so I told the Lord I was still going and asked Him to provide the way back. I was raising hogs then. Before it was time to leave, a man bought two feeder pigs, and I had enough money to fill both tanks on my truck and was even able to buy a meal. God promises He will provide all our needs.

Lets speak about the Ministry Board and the need for new members



Richard and Bertha Showalter, Richard was my past Chairman of the Board.

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry is still looking for a board member to replace Brother Richard Showalter, and there is a possibility Brother John Miller will be retiring sometime in the near future. Therefore, we would like some prospective board members who feel the calling on their lives for one of these positions. We need someone who would be willing and quali-

fied to be a fund raiser for the ongoing needs of this ministry. In addition to these ongoing needs, we want to begin setting aside funds for the day God says to begin Restoration House. On July 27, I was able to stir some new interest from Springdale Mennonite Church, and we received some pen pals and a family who volunteered to work with Family Ministry and

After Care. I would love to share the prison outreaches in other churches to inform them what we have to offer in ministry opportunities to inmates and their families. If anyone feels the call to be on the board or be a fund raiser for this ministry, contact us as soon as possible. Thank you and God bless.



Some of the youth at one of the church where I am sharing the ministry outreaches listen to testimonies

Sharing the Word with Youth.

It is always the desire of this ministry to reach the Youth before they take the wrong path. At the left, some of the Youth at a local church listen to testimonies of what could happen to them if they decide to take the wrong road. If you know young people of a single parent home, perhaps they could use some mentoring from someone in the local church to help them stay on the righteous path.

If rock or rap stars are the idols to whom your Youth are looking, Christian mentors might be just what they need. If you are already attending a local church, perhaps your neighbors' children could use some Christ centered attention. Open your heart for God to use you in any way He sees fit, and watch how blessed you and your family become by just having an

open heart for the Lord to fill with His love for others.



Ron gives a power point presentation at Springdale Mennonite Church.

Working out our salvation with fear & trembling

Jan. / Feb.
2009

Each day we need to do certain things that will allow us to walk closer to the Lord in a more intimate relationship. In my life, the main thing I recognize that helps is to hear and heed the still small voice that directs me. Christians need to be able to acknowledge His voice in an act of unselfish obedience to allow God's perfect will to be done in their lives, rather than His permissive will. I have people telling me all the time we cannot be perfect. I agree that I cannot be perfect, but Christ in me desires me to seek the most

intimate walk possible with Him. He demands a Christ like lifestyle; I see seeking anything less than all God has for us as a compromise. To do so is to be willing to accept less than God has for us and use that for an excuse for failing or falling short of His glory. Anyone who is less than perfect is not less saved (if indeed they are saved), but they are just not walking in the fullness of Christ or receiving all the power and authority God provides for us through the power of the Holy Spirit. 2 Tim. 3:5, "Having a form of godliness,

but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." This scripture applies to people who are not truly serving God and to those who are serving God in their own power, denying the power of the Holy Spirit that spoke the world into existence. When men deny that God can overcome sin in their life, they are denying the power of God. They cannot actually be perfect in their flesh, but they can submit totally to the Holy Spirit of God.



John and Annie Miller, Brother John is an active prison ministry board member.

Who can the Lord use for His kingdom?

Throughout the DOC, I see men very educated and knowledgeable in scripture, and I see others who do not read or write very well at all. I mention this because, from time to time, we share poems and prayers that we do not edit; we share them just as they are. We do this to allow all the readers to see the variety of men who are willing to share what God has put on their heart -

unashamed because they are not "smart enough" or "educated enough." They are willing to share God's love without shame because they are not allowing anything to hinder their desire to spread the love of God. Too many people are waiting until they feel they are qualified to serve, but God is calling them to share what they know now in whatever means possible.

Then God will continue to reveal more to them. Regardless of how simple or complex our testimony might be, or how well educated or untrained we might be, there is no excuse for withholding our testimony from others. God saves souls by His grace and mercy through willing vessels.



Brother Chris Shook and Brother Ron, Chris shared his testimony at one of the local churches.

Prayers for the New Year for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

Prayer request ;

"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:23, 24

My prayer is for a gift of at least 100 acres of land for the

Restoration House program. Along with that request, I pray for the finances to build the new building we will use to house 20 men to begin the program and enough finances to run the program for at least the first year until the residents can provide the funds to make the program self sufficient. As this program proves itself to be successful due to the lack of recidivism, I pray we can then add a similar building for women to be

run by women in a manner similar to the men's program. Then I pray for the funds for a church to be built on that property which will facilitate a Christian school during the week, and a regular food distribution program. In the basement of the proposed church, there would be a large kitchen and dining hall to feed disaster victims and volunteers of such disasters. There would be a section with a separate entrance

with beds and baths where families could stay for a short time if they were burned out or suffered a similar tragedy I have drawn up a rough plan for such buildings and have a professional currently drawing up these plans. This has been my prayer for over 22 years. Will you join me in prayer for this miracle?

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years	2	3
4	5	6 CBS	7 DCC/ PF	8	9	10
11 DCC/ RJPM	12 BCC/ RJPM	13 CBS	14 DCC/ RJPM	15	16 Food Bank	17
18	19	20 CBS	21 DCC/ PF	22	23	24
25	26 BCC/ RJPM	27 CBS	28 DCC/ RJPM	29	30	31

Prayer Corner

Page 4

Pray for churches to stop trying to just fill seats and begin to preach and teach the truth of God's Word.

Pray that God blesses the USA through the obedient saints who continue to lift up the name of Jesus.

Pray for the inmates who continue to be incarcerated after serving their time because of the way the governor and the parole board have things set up in Virginia. God is greater than them all!

Pray about the civil commitment process for sexual offenders, to be true and fair, not some way to get an inmate to server more time for the same crime.

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Gene & Fayleen Lawson for editing this newsletter.

The initials BCC stands for Buckingham Correctional Center; all services are held between 6:30 and 7:45 PM

DCC stands for Dillwyn Corrections Center; all services are held between 6:00 and 7:30 PM

RJPM stands for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry;

PF stands for Prison Fellowship

CBS stands for Community Bible Study; 2:00 to 3:30PM; Held by Chaplain Ron Baker, RJPM

Sunday service and 5th Monday is a Worship the other services are generally a Bible study

The Food Bank is held every third Friday in the Schuyler community at a local church; from 5:00 Pm to 7:00 PM

Offerings & Donations

are tax deductible since Rehoboth is a non-profit organization. They can be sent to the address below and will be used to further of the Jail & Prison Ministry.

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

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

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Ground Hog Day	3 CBS	4 DCC/ PF	5	6	7
8 DCC/ RJPM	9 BCC/ RJPM	10 CBS	11 DCC/ RJPM	12	13	14 Valentines Day
15	16	17 CBS	18 DCC/ PF	19	20 Food Bank	21
22	23 BCC/ RJPM	24 CBS	25 DCC/ RJPM Ash wed.	26	27	28