

REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON NEWSLETTER

March / April 2012

CHANGING LIVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

25 YEARS OF SERVING THE LORD AS OF MARCH.

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Mules

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Chaplains &

Executive Director

Ronald R. Baker

When this ministry started back in 1987, I had just been released in March from Staunton C.C. and I wanted to serve the Lord in the prison ministry. I was certainly very green and rough around the edges, as many of you who have followed this ministry well know. I applied to go into the prisons right away, and I was told I needed to get off of parole before they would even consider allowing me to become a regular volunteer. I contacted several ministries that I was familiar with while incarcerated and they suggested I get involved in jail ministry and then I would be better established as a volunteer when I was released from parole. When that time came the head of the local parole office and I had become close and he was willing to put in a good word for me wherever necessary, to assist my desire to minister in the prisons. As I look back over the years I see how God opened doors and closed other in order to bless this ministry and place it where He wanted us to serve Him. I remember in the very early stages of this ministry - I supported the ministry strictly through my wages from plumbing, and how God slowly added a few gifts here and there to assist in my travel.

I repeat a story I have shared many times about one Friday when I was due to go to Staunton C.C. I knew I only had enough fuel to get there and no money to buy any. I remember praying to God, saying I was leaving in faith that He would provide the fuel to get back.

At that time I was raising hogs. Just a few hours before it was time for me to leave God provided someone who wanted to buy two feeder pigs. At that time fuel was actually much more reasonable, and I was able, with that purchase, to fill up both gas tanks on my truck and even buy a fish dinner before I went into the prison, and had a little



Through the 25 years of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry many faithful people have seen to our needs, for this we thank you.

change. This is how God has always provided for the needs of the ministry.

No one in the ministry receives a salary, including the Chaplain/ Executive Director Ron Baker. This is why we are able to exist on such a small budget. When I look at ministries with budgets of 2 million dollars and all they are able to do I have often ask God why not us? It has been my dream for over 25 years now to have a Restoration House Program. One thing different from some of the other ministries who have places for the men to parole, I want the ministry to eventually be self supporting, but still allow the residents to pay off their court costs, and fines, and support their families, if necessary, while in the program. At the time of the resident's release we

want him to have a some money saved up. We do not want to take advantage of the residents, instead we want to show true Christian love to them.

Our budget for 2011 was \$18679. We are able to succeed with such a low budget because the hard work of the ministry board is voluntary, and the board members have been some of the strongest financial supporters of the ministry over the years. However in 2012 we had to decrease our budget by \$3000. we actually had to dip into the funds, previously set aside for Restoration House. Ministering in the prisons has always been our number one priority.

Ron does get reimbursed for all travel and office supplies, such as stamps, paper, ink cartridges, etc. and the ministry has money budgeted for this. Even with this very meager budget, we have set aside some funds for car repair or a future vehicle if and when it is needed. We have also been able to designate funds for our future Restoration House Program. So we praise God for all of those churches, individuals, and a few businesses, who continue support this ministry an pray for some large contributors to allow Restoration House to become a reality soon. We have had to dip into some of those funds to be able to set this years budget and not make any cuts. When things get better we will hopefully replace these funds.

MINISTRY OUTREACHES AVAILABLE :

In - Prison Ministry

After Care

Support Groups

Pen Pal (letter writing)

Mentoring

Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

Restoration House

**Ministry training
seminars available
for local churches.**

ONE OF THE WAYS RON SUPPORTED THE TRAVEL FOR REHOBOTH JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY IN THE BEGINNING



I can't find a dry spot.



Where's mom, we're hungry!



Is the hog that large or is the boy that small?



Finally, something to eat.



When I was released from Staunton C.C. in 1987 I started working in Charlottesville as a master plumber. I made good money and since they really needed workers at the time I was actually given pretty close to top wages since I had done a lot of plumbing in N.VA and much of it was commercial work. The company I went to work for needed experienced plumbers from commercial work.

I remember going to fill out the application and wondering if they would hire me after I had to fill in the part I had been convicted of a crime. I went with another fellow who had been released from prison, a few months before me and was also a plumber. When the owner handed us the applications he X-ed out the entire part of being arrested and said it was not relevant. Praise the Lord. I had a chance to prove myself as a good worker and experienced plumber without the cloud of incarceration hanging over me. By the way I worked there five years and never missed a day.

I did have some conflicts. They wanted us to work Saturday, but for straight time, and had been doing that for years, when I questioned that and said I would work for time and a half they said yes. Later we were asked to work Sundays for time and a half, and I said I would only work Sundays for double time, the other men were fearful to ask. Since I did not want to work on Sunday, I hoped they would just say no and then I would not be expected to work Sunday. They agreed to pay double time and we began working 7-11 hour days. This helped financially but did not help spiritually. I said I can always go to an evening service but after 11 hours I was too tired.

Later on I kept feeling the Lord calling me to full time ministry, but I had no support. However during the months I had to work so many hours my visits to the jail, were fewer and fewer.

I had bought a sow to kill for meat and got attached and decided to breed her and raise some pigs and perhaps sell some of them for income. When I moved to the place I now live I got permission from the absentee owners to expand my operation and I started selling hogs on the pole. (Hogs killed and ready to butcher). Gene Lawson and his family later came alongside me and Gene could cut up my meat for personal use and later he volunteered to cut it up for others and I could sell the butchered meat at a greater profit. This really helped when I decided to quit my plumbing job and work for myself, doing side jobs and dedicating the majority of my time to the prison ministry. This was actually when we started noticing an increase in donations for travel. There was no computer, so there was no newsletter and no expense as to office materials. Mike Mouly on the original volunteers from when I was Staunton, gave me my first computer and slowly have progressed in the use of computers and, as you see we now, have the newsletters and brochures we produce. However, the funds have come first, then as we realized the needs the funds were there and ready to me use wisely. Our office equipment has come a long way from my first Mac "Lisa" computer. I no longer have to raise hogs to provide for my travel, and when the money is there, then the dream of Restoration House Program will become a reality. THANK YOU LORD!



A couple of the cattle I raised early on.



Another sow for raising pigs.



They are little for a while, but then look below.



A Tribute to Colonel Gene Lawson



by his greatest admirer

His eyes observed more closely
The value of the prize.
If only he could make them see,
Surely then a hand would rise.

One day his body failed him.
With courage faced the pain,
And left behind this life and loves -
A greater life to gain.

The auctioneer is silent;
The gavel falls no more.
No hands are raised in bidding;
No lots pass round the floor.

.....
One day he was the struggler;
His hidden value lost.
A price was paid for purchase -
His Savior's life it cost.

.....
The highest bidder now announced,
Going once, going twice, now gone.
The Savior came and took his prize,
"Come, son. I'll take you home!"

.....
He understood the value
Of a single struggling soul.
Though no one cared to give a bid,
He begged the crowd for more.

.....
He always opened with first bid;
His judgment set the tone.
If no one saw great value,
He'd gladly take them home.



Tribute to a Great Man of God, a True Brother in Christ, and a Best Friend Brother Keane Pugh

I would like to let everyone know there are hundreds and maybe even thousands of men who will miss Brother Keane. Keane and Ann were very active in the Prison Fellowship group called, "Staunton Community Cares" for many years, going into the VA prisons with the Word of God. During these years it was not only the Godly encouraging words they shared with men; whom much of society had given up on, but also the love they showed to the least of these; God's children. They went above and beyond what would be expected of regular Christian volunteers. Of course, they were not regular volunteers, they were, in my words, extraordinary volunteers. Over the years, as an inmate, I saw them come walking into the programs hand and hand, holding hands through the entire program, letting go only to shake hands with the men who came to the services. I have heard so many men say, "I want that kind of relationship with my wife when I go home". I have met few men who present such a humble attitude; yet were so full of Godly wisdom. Keane blessed everyone he ever came in contact with. Keane and Ann

taught me the true meaning of giving. I remember I would figure, to the penny, legalistic tithing, being sure I gave a 10th, and also being sure I did not give an 11th. When I saw them give and give and give and then see how God blessed them because they trusted Him and that they were not concerned with material goods, I wanted to get in on that. I started giving more freely and God blessed just as His Word promises. Phil 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

There came a time I was supposedly trusting in the Lord for my parole, asking various Christians for their prayers. Then I asked Keane and Ann if they would be willing to go to the parole board and speak on my behalf, not knowing then how little it means to the board. They never hesitated. Of course, that did not say much for my trusting in the Lord for my parole. I did not make parole that year. The next year I did not interfere with God, but prayed fervently as did many friends who prayed with me. I finally made parole after three turndowns. When I got out Keane had a car all fixed up for me. He had several Plymouths and he gave me the one that ran the best. I will never forget the trips I made to see my relative in PA, the trips I made to N. VA to see other relatives, and the many years of volunteering at various prisons because of this selfless act and generous gift. By the way he did this for other inmates as they were released as well.

Watching Keane and Ann in the way they blessed the inmates through God's love, I was reassured of God's call on my life, to minister to the lost, as Keane and Ann had ministered to me and so many others. I feel I am a prison ministry chaplain today partly because of the spiritual, moral, and financial support and encouragement from Keane and Ann over the years. By the way for you who do not know it, Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry will be 25 years old in March of 2012,

so they had a long-lasting influence in my life as they have had in many others'. I could go on and on about how much I love Keane and Ann, but each of you who know them have your own story to share, of how they blessed your life; this is just a small part of how they blessed mine.



Keane at one of the first Day of Jubilee Celebrations



Keane and Ann Pugh at their home.

MARCH 2012

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

Drew's Trivia Corner

Questions for March/April

1. Why did Sarah laugh at the words of the Lord to her?
2. What two animals spoke to people in the Bible?
3. Who did God tell not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
4. How were the Israelites lead about in the wilderness?
5. What did God tell Ezekiel to eat that was not food?
6. What were Timothy's mother's and grandmother's names?
7. How many times were the waters parted for Israelites?
8. Who was swallowed up in the belly of a large fish?
9. How many days was he in the great fish's belly?
10. Before giving up the ghost what were Jesus' last words?

Answers to questions from Jan/Feb.'s Drew's Corner.

1. Satan through the serpent. (Gen.3:13)
2. Lamp, Light
3. The Angel Gabriel
4. The power of the Holy Spirit
5. Noah, the sign was the rainbow
6. 4 Noah, Abraham, at Sinai with Israel, & through His Son Ex. 19 5,6 & Heb. 1: 1,2
7. The Mosaic Age
8. In the covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:11)
9. Snake
10. A lion eager to devour its prey

The initials BCC stand 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; 10:00 to 12:00PM; 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 Thursday in the Schuyler community at a local church; from 4:30 Pm to 6:00 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 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

Web site: www.jailandprisonministries.org

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.

APRIL 2012

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