

March / April
2018

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry **Newsletter**

Changing lives from the inside out!

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Annual Fund Raising Banquet

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Ministry Outreaches

Available in VA:

In-Prison Ministry

After Care

Support Groups

Pen Pal (letter writing)

Mentoring

Family Ministry

Youth Ministry

Restoration House

Ministry training

seminars are

available for local

churches.

On March 3, we plan on holding our third fundraising banquet at Mt. View Mennonite Church, 488 Howardsville Tpke., Stuarts Draft, VA 24477. The pastor and congregation have warmly invited us to have our banquet there annually. This allows us to have two major gatherings a year - one Banquet in and valley and the Day of Jubilee at my church in Lowesville, VA. in September each year. At these gatherings we share the things going on in the ministry since the time of the last gathering and give opportunity to ask questions about the ministry and join us in some of the outreaches we provide through the local churches. Some of these outreaches are the pen pal outreach, the family ministry, the support groups for families who have members of their family or friends incarcerated and would like to join with others experiencing this similar, trying situation. There is also the after care outreach which welcomes inmates into the congregation and helps them get re-acclimated to society. There are many things we can explain and instruct on as the church follows through with their loving care for someone in need. At this gathering there will be good singing of praises to God. How could we celebrate 31 years of successful service without singing praises to Jehovah God? There will be

a time of testimony from ex-inmates who were blessed by a ministry and turned their lives around and are happily serving the Lord. As always there will be a wonderful meal provided at no cost to the public. There will be a basket or bucket for a love offering but no pressure to give. Give as, and only if, the Lords leads you do so. Remember your prayers for the ministry are of much importance so we do covet your daily prayers.

In the past 31 years of this ministry we have seem many men come to the Lord, not necessarily only through this ministry but other prison ministries as well. Some of these men maintain an attitude of praise knowing unless God performs a miracle they will die in prison, but still honor His Name. They have a freedom that many people outside of prison will never experience because their freedom is in Jesus Christ.

At each gathering and in each newsletter and letter I send out we mention needs and we will mention them once again here. As I get older and my health is not as good as it once was I am looking for people to fulfill some of my duties not while I am living but in case God takes me home before the rapture. We have managed to find a couple who have agreed to take

responsibility for some of the work even while I am still here to lighten my load. We really need someone who wants to join me going into the prisons so when I am no longer able to go in, this ministry will have a representative to bring God's love and good news to those incarcerated. Although some of these men are not going to be in the prison the rest of their lives, many are. I know during my time in the ministry they have heard the truth of God's Word and I do not want someone who might be a little fearful to tickle their ears for fear of upsetting someone. The minister will have to feel safe and comfortable in the confines of prison for a few hours. So as we mention these things I ask for your prayers and if you have an interest in coming along side of us, do not wait until March. Contact us right away at one of the ways on page 4 of the newsletter. If you would like to know more about the ministry, you know of a family who would like information to help someone they know who is incarcerated, or if someone has a family member who is incarcerated let them contact us.

Pictures of last year's banquet



MT View Listening to the speakers



These ladies above and below speak for Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry as well as their world wide ministry.



Mrs. Louise Jennings speak of years of prison ministry



March is the 31st year of Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry

I have to say in the 31 years of service to the Lord we have come a long ways. The pen pal ministry has written men in 39 states and one inmate in Thailand. We have written 100's of inmates over the years and we have been blessed with a number of pen pals from churches who speak of the blessing the pen pal ministry has been to them, along with the blessing it is to the inmate who might not receive any other mail were it not for his pen pal. We have two gathering each year one is in Stuarts Draft and one in

Piney River at my home church. This provides opportunities for people on either side of Afton to join us and hear about the ministry without traveling too far. Although many things are working out very well for the ministry we still need workers to take on the responsibility of coming on the ministry board to give ideas to the ministry as well as to help us be accountable to all of our supporters and share in the blessings of serving men in prison with the anointing of the Lord. Our celebration to the Lord for His presence in

the ministry seem to be better each year as we celebrate some of the men who have benefited from this ministry as well as others, as seen in the pictures to the left. Our celebrations are not to exalt the ministry but to lift up Jesus who makes any success of any ministry possible.

So come and join us and if you feel the Lord is calling you serve on the ministry board, contact us!

The Growth of the Pen Pal Ministry is Amazing

I continue to mention the need of families to write to male inmates in most all of my mailings. I just wish those who are reading these mailings could truly understand the blessing one receives when sharing the Love of God with a lost soul in one's spare time while sitting comfortably at home. While some people fill up what could be spare time with lots of other things, I find few things to be as rewarding as the feeling of knowing God is using you to show His love to someone in prison.

In the month of January alone, I received 30 new requests from male inmates. I also received 6 requests from female inmates, and those were assigned to volunteers right away. I know that this is hard for many to believe, but I have 6 federal inmates, 22 VA inmates and 69 inmates from other states on my personal pen pal list.

Some of these men write twice a week. The one man that lives in Bangkok, Thailand wrote twice, but I have not heard from him again. I have not found volunteers to write to these men yet. One day I got back from mailing 7 letters and received 4 more. Two of the 4 letters were new requests for a pen pal. This brings my total over 100 men.

I recently received a letter from Middle River Regional Jail and responded. Over the next several days, I received 5 new requests for pen pals. I have received a second letter thanking me so much for responding to their request explaining that they had written several other ministries in October 2017 and still have not heard back. There are not many pen pal ministries out there which are actually writing back to these inmates.

When I receive a pen pal

request, I try to get at least three letters from the inmate to be sure that the person writing really wants a pen pal and not someone to support him. With female requests, I try to give them a pen pal right away and explain to the volunteer that I do not know much about the lady. I want to always give the volunteers all of the protection that I can to have a good Godly relationship between pen pals.

So once again, I need help with volunteers. I have only received a couple lady volunteers to write the new female inmates I have not received volunteers to write the men in a while even though I have shared many requests. If you are interested in being a pen pal, please read the Pen Pal Brochure on our Website and get back to me. You are welcome to have more than one pen pal.

Testimony of a released inmate still serving the Lord.

I was incarcerated from August 3, 1994, until October 18, 2001. I was given a 25 year prison sentence for robbery. I broke into a man's house and took his wallet.

After I received my sentence, I was upset. I have never been to prison, so I did not know what was to come. I have asked Christ to come into my life on September 8, 1994. I know He was walking along with me and calmness came upon me. I could see Christ working in my life. People around me, that knew me before saw a different person.

It was not always good. I had some hard times as well. I went to different ministries at each place I was at. I got strength through ministry. When I got my first turn down, I was down, but my brother Ron talked with me and I knew this too shall pass. Being locked up is no bowl of cherries. But by me asking God to talk to me through people like Ron and the others, I found peace and joy in prison.

No matter what Satan threw at me I didn't buy into it. I have Brothers to help me. I

don't regret coming to prison because that is where I become a new man because of Christ. Now that I am out, I early rise a lot more. Walking with Christ doesn't get any better. So, while you're in there give yourself a chance and give Christ a chance to show you that His words are true. Take the time and attend some of the ministry. Just make sure they are teaching about Christ.

Here is a thought I had on March 1, 2002 Oh how the Lord looks after me and sees to my needs. I prayer for a request at the prison one night the men joined me in prayer, before I got home the prayer request was answered. Praise His Holy Name

When Jesus Looks

This inmates states, "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 a 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 dwelling 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 on 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 what I was going through.

Twenty-three years in prison and I am finally on the tail end of my time. Down to 4 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.

I have been writing this inmate since 7/5/13 and I have seen him come a long way he will be going home after over 23 years in prison in about 4 months. He hopes to visit me some day after he is off of parole and back on his feet. However if I never see him here on earth I will see him when we are both present with the Lord. Ron Baker

MARCH 2018

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

APRIL 2018

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

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sunday are evenings I ministry Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons.
The blue numbers are the days I preach at a local church.
The green numbers are the days we have the (MOM) Monthly Outreach Meal at Living Word Christian Fellowship.

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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Bible Quiz

- How was Joseph told to go to Egypt?
- What prophet's book did Matthew quote to confirm the prophecy of Jesus going to Egypt?
- Mary, Joseph and Jesus stayed in Egypt until what happened?
- Herod killed the boys up to what age in Bethlehem?
- What Old Testament prophet did Matthew say predicted Herod's killing or Bethlehem's boys?
- How many total dreams did Joseph have in the book of Matthew?
- What King caused Joseph to fear returning to Bethlehem and thus forced them to move to Galilee?
- Who was Archelaus' father?
- After Egypt, where did Joseph move his family when they returned to Israel?
- In what district was Nazareth found?

Answers next issue.

Bible Questions

- Q. What New Testament Book is specifically addressed to the Twelve Tribes?
- Q. Against which tribe did the children of Israel wage war for evil, done to the concubine of a Levite?
- Q. For what was the tribe of Benjamin famous?
- Q. Which tribe was often identified as a "Half Tribe"?
- Q. After the tribes were split into the Kingdom of Israel and Judah, By what tribal name was the Kingdom of Israel referred?
- Q. What was the first tribe to set foot in the Promised Land?
- Q. Which of the tribes established its own idolatrous cult?
- Q. What was the function of the Levites who were not priests?
(Answers in the next issue)

Evening Comes

Evening is a time to think
And cast your cares aside;
A time to pray and meditate,
And in the Lord, confide.

Evening is a time to read,
Write letters to a friend;
A time to sit with family
To visit, sew or mend.

A time to ponder, in your mind
And think your own thoughts
through
A time to cuddle little ones,
And them to cuddle you.

Evening is a time to dream
And sleep in Holy care
And trust that God is working
nights
To answer every prayer.

He is Faithful!

God is faithful to hear your pleas
Whether standing or on your knees.

Nothing can separate Him from the heart
Prayer being the very place to start.

Do not be afraid of a single thing,
Only a broken spirit surely bring.

Faith will as well make itself a way

Bringing light into a darkened day.