

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing lives from the inside out.

July / Aug. 2021

Board Members:

Chairman:
Tim Miller

**Secretary /
Treasurer:**
Lisa Miller

Jon Freivald

Rhonda Via
Steve Via, Joe Faus

**Chaplain &
Executive Director:**
Ronald R. Baker

**Non-Board
Members:**

Associate Editors:

Lindsey Wydner,
Phoebe King &
Mary Allen

**Ministry Outreaches
Available:**

In-Prison Ministry
After Care
Support Groups
Pen Pal letter writing

Mentoring
Family Ministry
Youth Ministry

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

The reason July the 4th is celebrated.

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet "Common Sense," published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

In June, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

Did you know? John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate

the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king's birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists

celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy's hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.

So what does independence mean to Americans today and to our government leaders?



These pictures show how I used to provide for the prison ministry along with my plumbing job.



For years now many government leaders are rejecting all of the Biblical principles and rejecting moral values that had become pretty common sense, like a man is a man and a woman is a woman. Since society argues that there are no absolutes, no one can be wrong in what they say or do since that is their right to think that way. Some even go to the extremes of complete physical transformation into being a man. He can also just state he is a woman because he feels he should have been born a woman. They might be compared to a thief who, because he was poor, stole and said he had that right since he felt he should have been born with money. You say the second one is ridiculous. I feel they are both ludicrous. I remember little things being proposed which I thought, "Where is that coming from?"

and saying, "That will never be accepted." Yet it was, and slowly more and more radical issues become acceptable to society blinded by the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. It does not matter who is running our government or the governments of the world if God is not where the laws and decisions are coming from the judgments of right and wrong. The government will only get worse. You might say, "Well, we vote. What can we do? Rebel?" As Christians we have the very word of God available to us. Let it lead us and not be concerned with what we feel we cannot change. Remember the end is nearer. Romans 13:11 And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. Meaning the

fulfillment of our salvation when we see God in the rapture is close.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. 2 Chronicles 7:14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

So to answer the questing in the title, we want to be sure, as Christians, we never see independence from the Word and Will of God, but be totally dependent on all God desires for His people and He will see us through these trying times.

When the ministry started this was my outside financial support.

So I raised hogs and cattle to sell alive or to butcher and sell the meat. It was hard work, but I was in much better health then. It was also rewarding to sit beside my sows and watch the wonders of the baby pigs being born, praying she has a good litter, and that they all live. At 8 weeks I could sell them as feeder pigs and put that money toward feeding the others until they were sold. The ones that were raised to full size I would find buyers to buy them as what is called "on the pole." I would scrape the hair off of them in a scalding container and remove the insides and what the people wanted I would save and they would come and pick the hog and parts up when they

were ready. I also had a couple Christian friends of the ministry who would help me butcher and I would sell hams, ribs, and other meat to individuals and I never ran out of pork for my self. I knew a man who had a professional meat grinder and I would take 100 pounds of meat and grind it up and make sausage and sell it as well. It would usually go pretty fast since people knew it was killing time and they would call and buy the meat and sausage. I could usually get volunteers to help kill in exchange for meat. The men who helped butcher would bring their entire families and the children knew just how to wrap the sausage and other meat products and we would

have lunch together and make a party of a lot of hard work with fellow believers. If by chance some of the volunteers who came to help kill and scald and clean the hogs were not saved I could spend the time learning from their past skills of killing hogs and I would share the Word with them. They knew I was a minister so they knew what to expect before they got there. Many of the African American brothers from local churches I visited would volunteer to help and the taught me a lot of about doing this task making it a learning experience for me. While I miss the fellowship I do not miss the hard work since I am much older now.

What is God calling you to do, and are you doing it, or ignoring it?

How would you like to be locked in a small room with another person, two beds, a sink, toilet, and maybe a small table welded to the wall to write letters? You can only leave the room once in a while for one hour in a day to shower, use the phone, or use the Kiosk machine to send or receive an e-mail, if you are fortunate enough to receive mail of any sort. When I mention this to some people, and they know I am speaking about an inmate, right away they infer they broke the law, so they are supposed to be punished. Then I mention the mail is held some-time for long times by an in-competent mail room, the food they are served is of little or no nutritional value in many state and federal prisons, is that something you would want friend or family member who got caught in their sin to endure? Many of these men and many women no longer have a good relationship with family. If I told you some of these people will repeat their sin even after their incarceration is over, that would be easy to believe. However if I told you some are truly seeking the Lord, not just to get them out of prison but to change their life because they are sick and tired of going to prison and getting out only to go back into their old way and

back to prison, would you believe that as easily? I happen to be one of those that people might have given up on after two incarcerations while supposedly having turned my life over to the Lord after the first time of prison. My immediate family never gave up on me, but lots of people did. When I got out of prison the second time spouting words about what God had done for me, most of my previous friends and lots of the kin were just watching and waiting for me to get back into the old life. But God had truly changed me from the inside out. Many of the inmates who write me are doing the same thing and all they are asking for is a mentor to help them grow in the ways of the Lord, help them understand some hard to understand verses, and experience the true love of God though a brother or sister in Christ who will sit down and take time to write an encouraging letter. I assure you although you may be saved if you feel God calling to do this simple thing, to write an inmate and you say, "I am too busy," God is not happy with you. Now you say, "Ron, you will never get any pen pals like that." I have tried everything I can from a positive point of view to tell people of the reward of writing the inmates and

how my life is blessed daily by their letters as well as feeling their pain and loneliness. So I though I would share this thought: If you do not feel God calling you to write a letter, praise the Lord. If you are busy with other issues for the Lord and that is not part of your call, praise the Lord. If you are just not able to write a letter or send an e-mail, well, God knows. However, if God is calling you to be a part of any outreach He will not give you peace until you obey. I have 100s of men and women who want to have a permanent Christian mentor/pen pal, someone to share the Lord God sharing His love with some hurting soul. If after you read this you still do not feel the call to get involved PLEASE pray for the things I mentioned which these inmates are going through with the excuse being the pandemic is what is causing everything. No programs, no work for the men who have jobs to support them while in prison, no church or Bible studies, and, probably the hardest thing on them, no visits from the wives or husbands, children, or parents in about a year now and there is nothing in the near future that would show us any positive changes. If you can not do anything else, you can **pray**.

Pictures of the 33rd Day of Jubilee



JPay Email for a faster and cheaper way to write an inmate.

Before sending communication to your inmate Pen Pal, you must first register online with JPay at www.jpays.com.

JPay's correctional email service is faster than regular mail, with inmates usually receiving emails within 48 hours.

Each email requires a "Stamp," often available at more affordable rates than traditional postage, and can

be purchased online. Current stamp prices: \$1.95 – (5) Stamps \$6.95 – (20) Stamps \$9.95 – (40) Stamps You can also Download the Free JPay App on your Smartphone. These amounts could change.

"Access JPay services from your Smartphone"

Many people today e-mail or text instead of writing letters.

Most prisons have a way for inmates to get and send e-mails through JPay, so we are sharing this information in case this would work better for you. There is no way the inmate can do anything but send an e-mail from the prison since the machine they use only allows that. So if this fits your desire to write better get in touch we us. There are inmates just waiting to hear from you. God bless you!

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

Bible Readers Outreach Ministries:

In April 2021 we mailed out 273 Bible lessons, enrolled 22 new students, mailed 7 Bibles at \$250.85 , 4 Bible dictionaries/concordances at \$59.93. Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$264.51, Stamps \$383.50 for a total of \$ 958.779

In May 2021 we mailed out 300 Bible lessons enrolled 41 new students, mailed 13 Bibles cost of \$245.98, 5 Bible dictionaries/Concordances at \$84.33 and Misc office materials (paper, envelopes, ink, cardstock) \$109.74 Stamps \$615.52 for a total of \$ 1055.19

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Pen Pal Outreach:

In April 2021 I wrote 146 letter and received 41 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None

In May 2021 I wrote 137 letter and received 39 new request during that month for volunteer pen pal . New volunteers to write inmates. None

I also received 3 letter written in Spanish which I could 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 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

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 May/June questions

- 1.) Capernaum (Matt. 11:23-24)
- 2.) Little children (Matt. 11:25)
- 3.) Yoke (Matt. 11:29)
- 4.) Our souls (Matt. 11:29)
- 5.) Grain (Matt. 12:1)
- 6.) David (Matt. 12:3-4)
- 7.) Sheep (Matt. 12:11)
- 8.) His hand (Matt. 12:13)
- 9.) Reed (Matt. 12:20)
- 10.) Wick (Matt. 12:20)

of generation would seek after a sign, according to Jesus?

5. Jesus compared His (upcoming) three days in the heart of the Earth to what Old Testament prophet's three-day adventure?
6. What a spirit leaves a person then returns and finds it empty and swept clean, how many more spirits will it invite to move in?
7. In Jesus' parable of the soils, what creature ate up the seed scattered on the path?
8. What does the seed represent in the parable of the soils?
9. What do the thorns represent in the parable of the soils?
10. How many more times blessed are those who accept God's message in the parable of the soils?

Question for July/Aug

1. From where did the Pharisees think Jesus got His power?
2. Jesus said blasphemy against who would not be forgiven?
3. In Matthew 12, what did Jesus say every man will have to give an account for on the day of judgment?
4. In Matthew 12, what kind

Inmate sharing a thought

I sit here in seg just doing time, wishing I had someone to write me from time to time, I work out and draw and write these rhymes, study my bible so I can be a better man in time, sometimes it's hard to keep up the faith, to be patient and just sit here and wait, I can't do this alone I must have God's help, on my knees where I belong, praising and praying to my precious Lord, asking for forgiveness for what I've done wrong, praying for His mercy, His help so I can carry on, dying out to self, so I can stay on the path that leads to His throne, the place I'll end up when my end comes.

Jesus, please watch over me, I don't have the

strength as you can see, my life is in such sadness and misery, I'm all out of options, please take this burden from me, I'm on my knees with my head held low in shame and pain with all my sins all bottled up inside, it's tearing me apart, there's no more room for it to hide in such a little heart, please forgive me of it all and take it from me so I may enter your kingdom and sit at the table with Thee

These two article are from the same inmate pen pal I have been writing since 12/26/18 he has shared many stories and poems. We put them in pretty much as we get them.